

WALSALL CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 24, 2013

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Outstanding

College celebrates inspectors' praise

See page 3



Rocky star

Rhydian returns for 40th anniversary of hit show

What's On – page 29



Champion

Gethin wins British title in front of his home fans

Sport – pages 51 & 52



Bridge plan in village

A SCHEME to replace Pelsall's landmark York's Bridge, which dates back to the 1800s, with a new bridge at its side has been put forward by council bosses.

Parts of Pelsall North Common would be lost under a ground swap plan involving a nearby pond. It is now planned to save the existing historic bridge in Norton Road and build a new one alongside it.

It means that additional land from the common is required to build the new structure and roadway. The scheme will mean deregulation of part of the site. Moat Farm pool, at the junction of Norton Road and Lichfield Road, will be re-designed common land in exchange.

There is currently a 10-ton weight restriction on the bridge, which carries Norton Road over the Wyrley and Essington Canal. Due to its narrow carriageway, there have been 10 reported accidents and 10 casualties at the site since 1999.

The council said that the lack of pathways means that pedestrians and cyclists are at risk until villagers have made it clear that they do not want to lose the historic bridge.

The authority insists that the impact of the scheme on Pelsall North Common will be minimal. Consultation is expected to start as early as next month.

Bus lanes to be watched

A MONTH-LONG amnesty is still anticipated at the start of a crackdown on drivers illegally using bus lanes in Walsall.

The use of a mobile camera is planned by Walsall Council but has been held up by "technical glitches" – See Page 2.

The council agreed a policy where those caught by the camera will be given a £60 fine, which will be halved if paid within 14 days. Those who fail to pay within 56 days will see the bill rise to £90.

U-TURN ON CUTS AND PRICE HIKES

Blitz on bins is a success

THE number of bins not emptied as part of a controversial recycling crackdown in Walsall borough has fallen.

But figures show 2,320 green bins were still rejected during latest rounds for containing the wrong rubbish.

Council chiefs have confirmed the blitz will continue, despite Government plans to soften penalties.

More than 11,000 bins were left uncollected after being found to contain the wrong kind of rubbish, such as food waste, general waste and nappies, when the drive was launched.

Rejected

Since then, the number of bins not collected in Walsall has fallen.

Councillor Tom Ansell said: "We thank residents for their ongoing efforts to recycle, which are contributing to a significant reduction in the number of loads being rejected."

"At the start of our awareness campaign last November 11,000 bins were being rejected, compared to last week when 2,320 bins were rejected, which equates to 2.31 per cent of the borough's total. This is due to residents playing their part."

The campaign was launched due to the rising amount of waste being taken to landfill, costing taxpayers thousands.

Taxpayers pick up bill

MORE than £170,000 of taxpayers' cash was used by the Government on advisors to help it decide what to do with sites previously owned by axed regional development agency Advantage West Midlands.

It means taxpayers have both footed the £7 million redundancy bill for the quango and for external firms to work on the agency's projects. This included £27,000 to consider development at the old Lex site at Walsall Waterfront.

PLANS to increase school meal prices in Walsall have been scrapped after more than £180,000 worth of cuts were dropped by council chiefs.

The controversial move to introduce a 5p rise in meals has been axed while the suspension of the garden waste service is also being reduced.

Other proposals for a £22,000 cut to music services at the Forest Arts Centre, in Hawbush Road, Leamore, have also been binned while the level of reductions for parks and ground maintenance has decreased.

Council bosses have decided not to pursue £187,000 of cuts put forward as part of the draft budget despite needing £13 million savings in the next year.

The rise in school prices would have generated an extra £20,000 but it prompted concerns from parents.

The authority said the decision to reduce cuts to grounds maintenance and green spaces by £11,000 will ensure the presence of rangers in parks at weekends.

Save

Linda Mason has campaigned against any reduction in funding amid concerns over the impact of fewer park rangers and the risk of more anti-social behaviour in parks.

The organiser of the Save Walsall Green Spaces and Countryside Services group said the reduction in cuts as outlined by the council was not enough.

She said: "It is still far, far worse than what we have now. I don't think they have listened hard enough, I don't think they realise the implications."

The council said although people supported the idea to reduce the garden waste col-

Report by
Craig Hughes

lection service over winter, they felt that closing in November was too early.

The council will instead keep the service open in November but then close it until the end of March, costing £35,000.

A consultation period saw almost 500 people take part and give their views on the proposed cuts and income-raising plans.

Council leader Mike Bird said: "We've given people the chance to have their say and we've listened by removing or changing five of the proposals."

He added: "We'd love to be able to remove or adjust more but it's only fair and honest to say that there will be many tough decisions still ahead of us."

The final £630m budget for the next financial year is due to go before the full council next month.

Finance boss councillor Chris Towe said: "This shows without question we've given people the opportunity to tell us what they think is important before we shape the final stages of our budget for the next financial year."

"We're very, very keen to preserve frontline services for the people of Walsall."

Snow fun and no fun in big freeze



Walsall Mayor Councillor Dennis Anson and Rev Colin Gibson planting yew trees in High Street despite a blizzard



If you haven't got a sledge, use a mate – funseekers at Barr Beacon take advantage of the weekend snow



If wasn't much fun for those who had to get to work – this motorist was struggling in Beechtree Road, Walsall Wood

the roads, while forecasters warned of freezing fog and more snow flurries.

West Midlands Police said the force took 1,955 999 calls on Sunday compared to a daily average of 1,620.

Stolen

Three vehicles were stolen from outside homes in Willenhall as their owners left them running to thaw out.

A silver BMW was stolen from outside a home in Nightingale Crescent, New Invention, last Thursday. A black Vauxhall Corsa and a blue Renault van were both taken from outside addresses in Delamere Road, Short Heath, shortly after.

An entire grit bin was stolen from Lichfield Road, Sandhills, with reports a van had stopped and taken it.

Bosses at Walsall Manor Hospital said services were running as normal.

The bitter cold and driving snow, did not deter the borough's Urban Forestry team, led by Ian McDermott, from planting the first of ten yew trees at the top of High Street on Friday, in honour of the 800th anniversary of Walsall Parish Church.

Rev Colin Gibson, Vicar of St Mathews, and Mayor of Walsall Councillor Dennis Anson took part despite blizzard conditions.

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Driver stole diesel from firm to sell

A FORMER company driver who stole fuel from the waste disposal firm he worked for in Walsall has been ordered to carry out unpaid work.

Andrew Davis worked for PHS All Clear Ltd in Aldridge for about nine months, Walsall Magistrates Court heard.

The 43-year-old, of Pelsall, would fill up his vehicle with diesel but later siphoned off the fuel to sell on to third parties.

The court heard he stole between £400 and £500 worth of fuel between November 26 and December 14 last year.

Suspicious

Mr Roger Blezzard, prosecuting, said drivers for the firm were given a card which they could use to fill up their vehicles.

He said: "The company noticed over a period of time that the vehicles driven by Mr Davis consumed high quantities of fuel. They became suspicious."

It was reported to police and Davis was arrested. He later resigned from the firm.

Davis, of Allens Lane, presented himself during the hearing and admitted one charge of theft. He told the court he was ashamed of his actions.

He was handed a 12-month community order and told to do 200 hours unpaid work.

He must also pay a £60 victim surcharge and £100 compensation to the firm.

Attack on fan – arrest made

ONE man has been arrested and another questioned over an alleged assault on a Portsmouth fan at Walsall railway station.

A 25-year-old man from Walsall was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and bailed.

A 42-year-old man from Tipton has also been quizzed regarding the incident.

The 56-year-old Pompey fan from Surrey suffered a broken jaw.

Suicide verdict

A CALDMORE man committed suicide by setting himself on fire inside his car, an inquest heard.

Father-of-two Ashfaq Hussain, aged 43, of Thorpe Road, killed himself in Spout Lane, Caldermo, in April 2012.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of suicide.

Man jailed for trying to incite violence

A PALFREY man who tried to incite violence after an English Defence League (EDL) protest in Walsall has been jailed.

Trouble flared at the EDL rally in Leicester Street, Walsall, in September last year.

Abu Bakir, of Palfrey, was wearing a stab vest and carrying a knuckle duster when he tried to incite people he believed were EDL supporters near Tame Bridge Parkway train station following the protest, Walsall Magistrates Court heard.

Mrs Rachael Smith, prosecuting, said the 22-year-old got out of a car in Walsall Road with a scarf wrapped around his face and tried to encourage those he assumed were EDL protesters to approach the vehicle.

Bakir, of New Mills Street, was seen by a police officer who searched him and found he was wearing the stab vest

and had the knuckle duster. He admitted possessing an offensive weapon and failing to surrender to court bail.

Mr Mahmood Hussain, mitigating, said his actions had been "impulsive" and out of character.

District judge Michael Morris handed Bakir a 17-week prison sentence for possessing the knuckle duster and eight weeks in jail for failing to surrender to bail, to run consecutively. He told him: "It's clear you were expecting trouble by wearing the stab vest."

Congregate

He also had a three-year Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order, preventing him from attending any demonstration by EDL, Unite Against Fascism or groups with the same views. It also ordered him not to congregate in groups whose presence was likely to cause distress, alarm or harassment.

In a different case, the court heard Roheel Rashid was stopped to be searched by a police officer who had seen 20 Asian men running from Arboretum Road.

The 22-year-old, of Luton Road, put up a struggle and pushed Pc Peter Dodsworth to the shoulder.

He admitted assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty.

Miss Amy Jackson, mitigating, said he was walking home with his younger brothers. Sentencing Rashid, Mr Morris said: "This was on a difficult day for police officers. There was massive disorder. You didn't make it any easier."

He was handed a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, a two-month 7pm to 7am curfew, and told to pay £75 compensation and £85 costs.

Three admin roles in disorder – See Page 12

Wardens are to get more body cameras

A PILOT scheme to stop parking wardens being attacked by angry motorists in Walsall by fitting them with cameras has been hailed as such a success that council bosses hope to make it permanent.

Bid to find acceptable use of site

COUNCILLORS are to work alongside owners of a site in Willenhall to find a "mutually acceptable" use after controversial plans for a mental health facility were withdrawn.

The proposed conversion of Meadow House, in Stroud Avenue, Short Heath, had sparked a protest petition with 1,300 names. More than 800 people flocked to a public meeting to air their concerns about the scheme.

But the planning application to Walsall Council has been dropped by the medical company.

Councillor Daniel Barker said: "It is now hoped that local residents and the ward councillors can get together with the owners to find a mutually acceptable future for the site."

The scheme involved the conversion of a former care home into a residential low secure mental health facility. The application was submitted by St Mary and St Michael Medical Company, based in Penn, Wolverhampton.

It comes as up to £3,000 will also be spent on body cameras for more than a dozen enforcement staff as part of a blitz on litter in the town.

The trial was launched last summer after 40 incidents of abusive behaviour towards traffic wardens in 12 months were reported by the council.

Walsall Council chiefs are now looking to allocate funding towards making the body-mounted cameras permanent.

Transport and environment chief councillor Tom Ansell said: "The trial was a real success and resulted in positive feedback from both members of the public and our own civil enforcement officers.

Police

"We would like to make the cameras a permanent feature but we need to look at funding so will look at building something into the next round of contracts around summer time."

When the trial was launched the council said footage would be passed on to the police to assist with prosecutions.

Private firm Apcoa runs the service on behalf of the council, monitoring the streets and town centre car parks.

It comes as up to £3,000 will also be spent on body cameras for more than a dozen enforcement staff as part of a blitz on litter in the town.

Celebrations at 'outstanding' college



Principal Maria Gilling celebrates the college's "outstanding" rating from Ofsted

A COLLEGE in Walsall has become the first in the country to be judged as outstanding under the new Ofsted framework.

Inspectors praised the quality of teaching and learning at Walsall Adult and Community College.

Staff and students were celebrating after receiving the top rating, almost three years to the day since it was graded 'good'.

The college received the highest possible grading in all five inspection areas. Principal Maria Gilling said: "Words cannot express how delighted we are."

Praise

The education watchdog awarded the college, based in Hawbush Road in Leamore, 24 grades in total – of which 23 were outstanding.

Overall effectiveness of provision, outcomes for learners, the quality of teaching and the effectiveness of leadership and management were all areas for praise.

Ms Gilling added: "Under the new common inspection framework, a college cannot be graded as outstanding overall unless its teaching, learning and assessment practice is judged as such. This outcome is certainly testament to hard work of our learners, staff, partners and governors."

NEWS

in brief

Police target the 'flasher' menace

ACTION against indecent exposure will be launched in Walsall again by police, following a spate of incidents in the borough.

A total of five people were arrested last year.

The new campaign follows an incident in which a hooded man flashed at a woman as she walked at Pelsall Wood Common on January 8, at around 2pm.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to get in touch.

Inspector Felicity Keane said: "Thankfully, these offences are still relatively rare. However, we take any such offences very seriously and we set up an extensive operation in 2012 to reduce this kind of offending, working to bring offenders to justice."

Choice event for carnival royalty

A SELECTION event for Willenhall carnival royalty will be held on Saturday, February 2, ahead of this year's event in June.

Categories include boys aged five to 12 and girls aged five to 16, and over.

Entrants must be aged five by the qualifying date of June 15. Entrants must live in the Walsall or Wolverhampton areas to take part in the carnival queen contest. Call 01902 411611 or 07909 627736 for an application form.

History walks to fund a food bank

A SERIES of history walks around Darlaston have been launched, organised by Darlaston Local History.

To make a booking call 07952494839. Entry costs £2 for adults and 50p for children. Proceeds will go to St Lawrence's Church foodbank.

Crime drops in Reedswood area

THE number of crimes committed in an area of Walsall fell last month, it was revealed at a neighbourhood watch meeting.

Police said there were 38 crimes in Reedswood in December 2012 compared to 42 for the same period in 2011.

Nail bar set to open

AN electrical appliances shop will be converted into a nail bar and tanning parlour in Brownhills High Street after planners gave the green light. A change of use of the unit was approved under delegated powers.



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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

SOME weeks ago I warned readers to watch out for hard objects while eating pheasant. They could be lead shot. It might also be wise to watch out for hard objects while eating beefburgers. They could be horseshoes.

□□□□□□□

I WANTED a DVD of a classic drama series. Even a dinosaur like me knows there are two ways to do this. The first is to get up, get the car started, drive into town, find a parking place, buy a parking ticket, make your way to the DVD shop, avoiding the Big Issue sellers and charity muggers, find the DVD is out of stock and ask the shop staff if they can get you a copy. If they can, then you repeat the entire procedure a few days later and pay way over the odds for the DVD, plus £4 or so for the parking. The other way is to go online, buy the DVD at eBay for half the high-street price and get it delivered to your door by an obliging Portuguese courier who calls you Mr Road-ez. The wonder is not that HMV have gone bust but that their chain of town-centre shops lasted so long. The high street as we know it is doomed and the sooner we start turning department stores into apartments and houses, the better.

□□□□□□□

MEANWHILE, a reader who enjoys the old-fashioned shopping experience tells me in one store he was invited to "pre-order" a book. He muses, what is the difference between pre-ordering and simply ordering?

□□□□□□□

HERE we go again. Yet another reader joins the growing ranks of people who, soon after encountering the NHS, get unsolicited contacts from private companies. She's a middle-aged lady who discovered at a routine blood test just before Christmas that her cholesterol was alarmingly high. Sure enough, three weeks later she was contacted by a health screening company which had already fixed a local appointment for her. She says it's either "a massive coincidence or something very fishy." Having had dozens of similar reports from readers, I think we can dismiss the coincidence line. My suspicion is that some employees of the NHS routinely sell private information.

□□□□□□□

A FREEZE on recruitment has created a nationwide shortage of police officers aged under 26, prompting one police commissioner to express fears about "the need to engage with younger people." Really? I seem to recall when I was a teenager and a young driver, the best sort of engaging came from older, wiser officers. The ones in their early 20s were more like school bullies.

□□□□□□□

TWIN brothers in Belgium were born deaf. At the age of 45 they were told they were both going blind. Unable to face the prospect, they asked to be put to death under Belgium's euthanasia laws, even though neither fitted the legal demand of being terminally ill or in pain. It was reported this week that they died of lethal injection on December 14. Has this case shocked Belgians into rethinking the law? Not at all. Under a new amendment, euthanasia will soon be available for children and Alzheimer's sufferers. When British enthusiasts for euthanasia talk blithely about "safeguards," just look across the North Sea and shudder.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

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Mr Bresser from Willenhall - Thank you for supplying us with a lovely new bathroom

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Mr Walters from Walsall - The transformation from old to new looks brilliant, would not hesitate to recommend to others

MP backs action call on subway

CAMPAIGNERS calling for action over a vandal-hit underpass they say is dangerous to use are to meet with council officials and an MP in a bid to resolve the problem.

The subway runs under the busy Willenhall Road, in Portobello.

It has been repeatedly damaged in recent months with the light fittings broken and the handrails removed.

The walls are also covered in graffiti, and the site often floods during heavy rain.

Residents living near the underpass have been calling for work to be done on the site. Some say it should be closed down and an alternative crossing provided.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden went to view the underpass and has agreed to meet residents.

A representative from the council is also due to speak with concerned local residents.

Mr McFadden said: "I agree with residents about the underpass.

Threatening

"It is dirty, threatening, and it feels unsafe. I am looking forward to meeting with residents and the council to see what can be done."

The subway off New Street is used by residents to get from Portobello to Willenhall.

Wolverhampton City Council said repairs had

been done but the vandalism in the subway had continued.

Pensioner Tom Larkin, who has lived in the area for 40 years, said many people wanted to see the subway closed but he felt that some sort of alternative access for people to cross the road would have to be provided if that happened.

He added: "At long last something seems to be happening."

Plans for a supermarket to be built alongside a new care home and GP surgery on a site next to the subway were put on hold last week.

Councillors voted to negotiate with developers for the £20 million scheme in New Street to see if any more housing could be built.

Equality move for adoptive parents

WALSALL South MP Valerie Vaz has met the minister for children and families to discuss proposals to allow adoptive parents to be treated the same way as birth parents.

The Labour MP met with Edward Timpson to discuss possible equalisation of leave, pay and allowance arrangements for adoptive parents.

She said: "I was very pleased to meet with the minister to discuss the provisions contained in my Adoption (Leave, Pay and Allowance Arrangements) Bill. I introduced the Bill under the ten-minute rule procedure on June 29, 2011. Since then I have been having discussions with various government ministers.

Provisions

The Government has said it will be taking forward two of the three provisions contained in Ms Vaz's Bill. One is to equalise leave arrangements for adoptive parents, and the other is to equalise their pay arrangements.

"The minister said the Government's intention is to have the necessary legislation in place by spring 2014, subject to Parliamentary business and timetabling," added Ms Vaz.

The third part of Ms Vaz's Bill was about allowances for self-employed adoptive parents.

Police act on village problems

POLICE are cracking down on anti-social behaviour in Pelsall following complaints from residents.

Reports to officers include noise complaints at Charles Crescent. Youths have been reported banging on windows and doors in Ridings Crescent.

Councillor Garry Perry Said: "I'm glad that police are taking this matter seriously. What seems like a bit of harmless fun could be quite serious; it's not unknown for elderly people to suffer heart attacks during such incidents."

To report anti-social behaviour call police on 101 or for noise call Walsall Council on (01922) 650000.

New start at school

New headteacher at Pheasey Park Farm Primary School Sally Lanni with pupils Abbie Healey and Sophie Payne showing the new logo and 'Believe and Achieve' motto

IT HAS been a case of new year, new start for a primary school in Walsall.

Pheasey Park Farm Primary and Children's Centre has welcomed Sally Lanni as its new headteacher this month.

Mrs Lanni was previously the head of the highly successful Villiers Primary in Bilton, Wolverhampton.

Children at Pheasey were asked to design a logo and motto to celebrate the new start and the winners were Sophie Payne, aged 11, and Abbie Healey, 10, from Year 6.

Mrs Lanni said: "I am delighted to become the new headteacher at Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Children's Centre.

Develops

"It is my intention to ensure that Pheasey Park Farm rapidly develops as a centre of excellence and that all of our children receive the very best education that we can deliver."

She said she wanted the school to become known as outstanding, innovative and a centre of excellence.

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NEWS

in brief

It's last chance to make nomination

TOMORROW (Friday) is the last chance to nominate disabled people in Walsall who have made a real difference to the lives of others for an award at an annual ceremony.

The seventh annual Walsall Annual Disability Awards will be held on March 21. The ceremony, sponsored by Caldmoreacord, will take place at Walsall College.

Nominations can be made by individuals, projects, schools, colleges, employers, voluntary and community organisations until 5pm on Friday, January 25. Nomination forms can be found at www.accordgroup.org.uk

Project to extend bar is withdrawn

A PLAN to extend the bar area of a pub in Willenhall have been withdrawn ahead of its consideration by council planners.

An application for a ground floor extension at the Poets Corner, in Keats Road, had been lodged with Walsall Council.

The bar was given a facelift following a £90,000 investment earlier last year but the latest submitted proposals have now been withdrawn.

Parks get set for the lighter nights

EVENING opening hours at parks across Walsall will be extended over the coming months with the lighter nights.

From February gates will close an hour later at 5.30pm and then at 6.30pm in March.

This will increase until 5pm in April and 9pm in May.

Carriageway to be closed on Sunday

A ROAD closure will be in place in Moxley for carriageway repairs to be carried out on the Black Country Route.

The work will take place on the northbound carriageway on Sunday.

Restrictions will operate between Bull Lane and the roundabout this Sunday from 7am to 11am.

Cyclists club all set for a 12-mile ride

A 12-MILE cycle ride organised by Cycle Touring Club Walsall will set off from Pelsall on Saturday.

A group will get in the saddle at The Railway Inn, Victoria Road, at 9.30am.

Call (01922) 693167 for more details.

Search for Spitfires hits snag

A TEAM hunting for dozens of Second World War Spitfires believed to be buried at Burma's main international airport said the search would take longer than expected after a survey discovered bundles of electric cables in the way.

It is hoped to bring one of the planes "home" to Castle Bromwich for restoration.

So Thein, a retired Burmese geology professor, who is helping hunt for the rare fighter planes, said the team had located crates that could contain the Spitfires.

Battle

He said cables and water pipes were found above them and there is no blueprint for their precise locations, meaning unearthing them would be more time-consuming than anticipated.

There is no word yet on where the crates would finally be unearthed.

The iconic Spitfire won fame for helping Britain win the Battle of Britain and halt Nazi invasion during the war but it was at a high cost in both pilots and machines.

Former Walsall man David Treaggar, who now lives in Denmark, is spearheading a £2 million bid to bring one of the Spitfires back to the West Midlands.

The father-of-two is hoping he can raise enough money to bring one back to Castle Bromwich where it was made.

Drug problem led to death of woman, 40

A WILLENHALL woman battling drug problems died of pneumonia worsened by taking methadone which affected her breathing, an inquest heard.

Nasreen Jan, aged 40, of Circuit Close, had a history of seizures and drug abuse and, in the days before her death, had breathing difficulties, her family told an inquest.

Pathologist Dr Iqbal Dhesi told the hearing at Walsall Manor Hospital that one effect of methadone was to cause respiratory depression. The cause of death was respiratory failure due to broncho-pneumonia and an overdose of methadone.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of death by natural causes.

Post office clerk's fraud was to pay debt

A POST office counter clerk in Walsall who was awarded more than £1,000 in compensation that she was not entitled to after falsely claiming luxury parcels – including Louis Vuitton handbags – had been lost in the post has been given a suspended prison sentence.

Rajimeen Dulai has been ordered to pay back the £1,300 she received from a fake claims made while working at Gillity Village Post Office in Walsall and at a post office in Kingsbury Road, Birmingham.

Dulai, of Aster Way, Tamebridge, admitted three charges of fraud by false representation.

Walsall Magistrates Court heard that the 30-year-old of Aster Way, Tamebridge, ordered luxury items then either claimed she had not received them or that she had returned to sender.

She made false certificates of postage to back up the claims. Under the mail company's special delivery service, parcels can be insured up to £2,500.

Mr John Dove, prosecuting, said on the first occasion she falsely claimed to have returned two Louis Vuitton handbags but they never made it back to the firm. She was paid £1,300 in compensation.

Raided

When her home was later raided by the police and Royal Mail officers, the two handbags were found.

Dulai also lied to claim she had not received a Christian Dior watch from Goldsmiths, worth £3,300. That was later found at her mother's house in Slough.

On a third attempt, she claimed to have posted sun-

glasses, a watch and clothing, worth more than £450, which were then lost in the post.

She was not paid for the last two claims.

Dulai was employed by the Martin McColl retail chain when she worked at the post offices. She has since lost her job.

She admitted three charges of fraud by false representation in October 2011 and February 2012.

Mr Steve Blower, mitigating for Dulai at Walsall Magistrates Court last Thursday, said she had been trying to get out of debt.

District Judge Michael Morris gave Dulai a 12-week jail suspension, suspended for 12 months.

She was also handed a community order.

Extra trading day in plan to fund market

A BUSY market could trade for an extra day each week to help raise part of the £1.1 million investment said to be needed to help it thrive in a new town centre location.

Experts brought in to analyse the future of the historic 100-stall Walsall Market believe it should permanently relocate to The Bridge and Bradford Street. Initial funding plans suggest that additional income could repay the cost of the investment over 10 to 15 years.

Revenue could be raised by increasing rents, trading for an additional day and creating an events space, which would mean moving the Source of Ingenuity fountain. The 800-year-old market currently trades five days a week.

Financial

Yesterday (Wednesday) council chiefs were being asked to instruct officers to commission a study to assess the design and financial implications of creating a market square on The Bridge. The feasibility and design study is likely to cost in the region of £40,000.

Walsall Market Traders Association chairman Tony Larner welcomed plans for an additional trading day.

He said: "If there's an appetite for it then it could work. A lot of traders do ask me about a Thursday market because there's not that many around."

A report, going before cabinet, says a plan would be needed to protect the council's investment. Councillors will be asked to recommend that customers, retailers, investors and representatives of market trade organisations are consulted.

Figures which were released last year showed more than 80 empty units in the heart of the borough.

However, high streets in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall are faring better and have seen a surge in empty units being snapped up. They fell by 41 per cent.

Any new firm taking on a site in the town centre with a five-year lease can get a year's free rent under a new initiative.

Garden memorial for Keelan

Parents Craigie and Tracy Smith at the garden being created in memory of their son Keelan in Bloxwich, with pupils Joe Hinks, aged eight, and Ruby-Rae Bond, six

WORK on a garden in memory of a six-year-old boy from Bloxwich is forging ahead with the aim of being completed by the summer.

Tracy and Craigie Smith lost their son Keelan to cancer almost 18 months ago.

The couple raised more than £3,300 with the help of the community towards creating a memorial garden at Elmore Green Primary School, where Keelan was a pupil.

The first phase includes an auditorium for storytelling and there will also be an orchard garden and a sensory garden space.

Tracy, aged 36, said they were pleased to create Keelan's Garden which will be an on-going interactive area for pupils for years to come.

She said it was fitting memory for Keelan. "He loved being at the school and loved being outdoors."



Keelan Smith, aged six, loved being outdoors

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NEWS

Meals service expands its role in community

A COMMUNITY meals scheme has almost quadrupled the number of customers it serves since launching two years ago.

An update on the £220,000 Taste for Life service will be given to Walsall Council recently. The scheme delivers hot and frozen meals and hosts weekly luncheon clubs. It has 580 pensioners on its books.

It was launched on January 7, 2011, after the authority ended its contract with meals-on-wheels provider Sodexo, in a bid to save £1 million over three years.

At the time, there were 300 pensioners and vulnerable people receiving meals – 150 chose to go with the scheme and 150 declined.

Visit

The scheme expanded when it introduced safe and well calls, where staff visit or call residents. By the end of its first year the scheme, run by Caldmore Housing and Age UK Walsall, had 350 registered users.

Help with cooking at home is now offered and bosses have spoken of plans to set up book clubs and friendship circles.

Frontline staff are taking part in a pilot scheme which assesses the capability of Taste For Life users. The aim is to see how pensioners could contribute to their local communities.

Staff will also be revisiting original meals-on-wheels users who turned them down to see if their needs have changed.

Taxi office gets nod

MOVES to convert a showroom into a taxi booking office in Walsall have been backed by council planners.

The application in Croxtalls Road, Bloxwich, has been granted permission by Walsall Council under delegated powers.

Head of planning David Elsworth said: "The proposed change of use to a taxi office within this industrial location is acceptable as it is considered to have no impact upon the character of the area or residential amenity."

Gardeners' plea over floods



Water gardens – Michelle Speed, Tracey Perks, Peter Fitton, Paul Lees and Ray Fitton, who have all experienced problems from the flooding, in Miss Speed's submerged garden

FED-UP residents say they are at the end of their tethers after being continually hit by flooding in their gardens for the past eight months.

Gardens of six privately-owned homes in Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich, repeatedly flood during heavy downpours and residents say they suspect it is due to blocked drains.

Care assistant Michelle Speed, aged 39, who lives with her 11-year-old daughter Olivia, said they have been trying to sort the issue with Walsall Council for months.

She said: "It floods every time it rains heavily. We've seen rats swimming about in the water. There's a storm drain at the back of the houses which we think is blocked.

Investigating

"We've all repeatedly called the council but we don't seem to get any joy."

Her neighbour, Peter Fitton, 57, who lives with his disabled mother Kathleen, 82, said he was also fed up of the problem.

Walsall Council is investigating.

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Marley will improve a life



Marley, named by Willenhall students, has a busy year

STUDENTS at a Willenhall school were given the opportunity to name a future guide dog thanks to their year-long fundraising.

Year 7 pupils at the E-Act Academy managed to raise more than £1,800 for Guide Dogs and were honoured with the chance to name the association's latest canine recruit.

After a lot of deliberation the children decided on Marley for the puppy, who will now undertake 12 months training before being partnered with a blind owner.

Cute

Katie Butler, head of careers at Willenhall E-Act Academy, said: "The Academy is extremely proud that our pupils managed to raise the £1,500 as quickly as they did and the fact that we exceeded our target and raised over £1,840."

"But the reality of what we've done hit us when we received the photograph of Marley. All puppies are cute, but ours is quite special."

Pupils carried out different tasks to raise the money including sponsored silences, raffles and for one pupil it was a sponsored walk over Mount Snowdon, the highest Welsh peak, that raised £300 alone for the charity.

Sarah Knox, from Guide Dogs, said: 'I hope the staff and pupils at Willenhall E-Act Academy know just how much they have done to bring independence of a blind or partially sighted person.'

"A guide dog brings confidence, mobility and companionship. Marley will truly change a life."

Guide Dogs currently have more than 700 people of all ages on lists waiting for a guide dog.

"Marley will hopefully go on to help someone on our waiting list, just like these people who are waiting for a Guide Dog to give them independence," added Sarah.

To find out more about the Name a Puppy scheme call 01189 838756 or email sarah.knox@guidedogs.org.uk

Nando's planning to open restaurant in town centre

TWO high street chains are poised to open new outlets in Walsall town centre, creating dozens of new jobs.

Nando's is planning to open a restaurant at the Crown Wharf Shopping Park, while coffee giant Costa is looking to open a second shop in the town.

It has earmarked part of the former Clinton cards shop in the Saddlers Centre for a £200,000 investment, creating four full-time and six part-time jobs.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "It's brilliant

news that companies like these have recognised Walsall as an up-and-coming place to be. There are Nando's and Costa up and down the country, and I would like to thank them for investing in the town."

Transform

Both firms have submitted planning applications.

Nando's wants to transform the former Pizza Hut at the Crown Wharf, off Wolverhampton Street, which closed in November.

Central Coffee Ltd has applied to take over an empty unit at the Saddlers

Centre and wants to change its use and install advertising signs. Costa already has a shop at the New Art Gallery.

Meanwhile, budget fashion chain Primark has boasted rocketing sales figures over Christmas while babywear icon Mothercare saw its struggling UK stores slip even further.

Mothercare, which has stores in Walsall, Wolverhampton and Merry Hill, is planning to close 50 shops. But its online store is doing well.

Primark, which is planning to open in Walsall, saw better sales than expected - up by a quarter on the same period last year.

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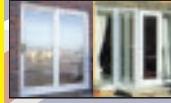
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LETTERS

Council allowances increase is 'obscene'

IT'S GOOD to know that there's at least one councillor with integrity who won't be claiming the obscene increase in councillors' allowances. The Labour councillors are just as bad as the rest because they knew that by not voting the motion for the increases would be passed, so they were just as bad at grabbing what they could. Many of us haven't had a rise for many years. These allowances are far more than many of us get paid for our full-time jobs!

I said these increases were obscene, and so they are, when council employees have been made redundant, council services have been cut or are not fit for purpose. It is a case of all of us tightening our belts, unless you are a councillor.

The local political parties with all their financial resources at election time tend to block any other local people from being elected, so that the public doesn't have any real free choice of alternative candidates, so that only present councillors can partake of this gravy train.

Our council isn't democratic, nor will it ever be with councillors affiliated to political parties and following the party line rather than what those who vote for them want:

COLIN ROBERTS
Hall Lane
Walsall Wood

LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Enjoy winter wonderland while it lasts

ACROSS Darlaston it has been a delight that so many young people and parents are taking part in snow sports.

Plastic sledges of all shapes and sizes. Young people and parents of all shapes and sizes all having an enjoyable time building snowmen, sledging, play fighting with snowballs, all just having a great time in the winter wonderland.

Many very young people may not have experienced the fun of sledging and playing out in the snow. Modern warm, chill-proof coats, boots, hats, gloves and sledges of all colours have made a snow sport session a great activity for all. In my day we had home made wooden sledges and bala-clavas, gloves were a luxury item, unless your gran could knit!

Families and young people outdoors enjoying activities in the snow. Thousands of calories must have been burnt off. Fresh air, energetic sports, all action fun, laughter and memories for the cold nights ahead.

Winter is a challenge but let's always remember the opportunities we can take from the snow scenes we have across our towns. Two young families returning from a sledging session were overheard saying: "That was great fun. I'll be stiff and sore tomorrow but the kids just loved it". If we could bottle and sell that spirit and enthusiasm for all our activities and, shared more sports as families, I suggest we would all benefit by becoming fitter in a good fun way.

Keep warm and safe and don't forget you probably enjoyed the snow too, once upon a time.

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NEWS

Councils will not merge borough library services

Creative dream team



Sasha Lytle is making bracelets for Promise Dreams with help from Freya Felton, seven, and mother Claire Felton

A STUDENT from Leamore has put her creative skills to use for charity. Sasha Lytle, aged 17, made 50 bracelets in aid of Promise Dreams, which sold out in a week. She has joined forces with friends Claire and Freya Felton to make 350 more.

Coppice Performing Arts pupil Sasha said: "I am amazed by the reaction but now I want to make as much money for charity as I can." Mrs Felton and Sasha's family are helping to buy the parts for the bracelets which sell for £1 for the charity.

Mrs Felton said: "We were delighted to help. It give us a chance to thank Promise Dreams for all the assistance they have given my daughter Freya through her illness." For more information call 07542 368563.

COST-CUTTING proposals to create a single Black Country-wide library service have been shelved by council bosses.

Talks on a possible merger had been taking place between Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell councils in a bid to save more than £1 million a year.

But they have decided not to press ahead with the plans to share back office functions, as each council had different priorities.

In Walsall, cost-cutting measures such as a review of book stocks and new technology have been put in place as part of plans to save £140,000 from the library service in the next three years.

Staffing

Wolverhampton City Council has overhauled its library service as part of proposals to save £1m.

Dudley Council is looking at reducing staffing levels in libraries, archives and adult learning to find £75,000 towards savings of £347,000, says a report by adult services director Andrea Pope-Smith.

Firm invests in machinery

A PET accessories firm in Walsall is investing almost £250,000 in new machinery in a bid to increase sales and create more jobs.

Bosses at Ancol in Bloxwich say sales soared by 11 per cent last year and the firm wants to continue the trend by improving the quality of leather leads, collars and accessories it makes.

Operations director Simon Lane said: "We are investing this year on new, hi-tech leather processing machinery. The knock-on effect will, hopefully, be increased sales and hopefully it will lead to jobs, although we cannot say how many."

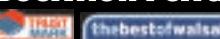
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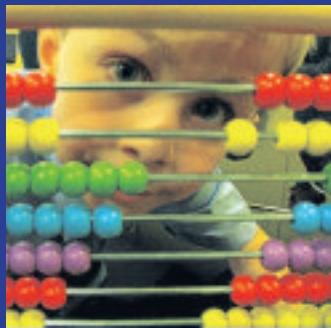


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NEWS

Man is jailed for biting fingers of court officer

Garden on show for charity



John Quinn plans to reopen his garden in Bloxwich for charity

A GARDEN will be opened to the public twice this summer after a break of more than two years. John and Julie Quinn will open their Bloxwich garden in May and July.

The 33sq ft garden includes Japanese maples, water feature, oriental bridge and stone ornaments.

It will be open on May 26 and July 28, 10am-4pm on both days. Admission is £3.

A MAN who bit the fingers of a court security officer as he was being taken to the cells has been sentenced to 18 weeks in prison.

Maurice Graver, of Bescot Street, Walsall, was held in contempt of court at Walsall Magistrates Court on October 17 but resisted officers' efforts to take him away. The 45-year-old initially refused to go down stairs before shouting abuse and wrestling with officers.

Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard he got hold of Robert Yates' hand and squeezed it so hard Mr Yates said "you're going to break my fingers", to which Graver replied "that's the idea".

Aggravated

When Mr Yates shook his hand free, Graver bit his fingers, said Mrs Jayne Yeomans, prosecuting.

Graver, representing himself, was found guilty. District Judge Graham Wilkinson said that the assault was aggravated by the defendant showing no remorse for his actions. Passing sentence, he said: "It's clear you wanted to cause even more harm."

Graver will serve half of his 18-week sentence.

Enterprise centre to open at mosque

A NEW community centre has been given the go-ahead in Walsall as part of the extension of a mosque.

The plan for the Minhaj Ul Quran will create more facilities for young people in Alumwell. The centre aims to provide training and employment opportunities. The ground floor is to be converted into the Gateway Enterprise Centre.

The mosque will move to the upper floor of the site on the corner of Woodwards Road and Reservoir Place.

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Council scheme to spend £3m on adapting homes

Club is a belting success



Top from left, Suleiman Asif, aged seven, Chelsea Clarke, 11, Hassan Akram, 11, Liam Harvey, 13, and club instructor Daniel Felton, of Darlaston, with his son Dylan, three

NEW members are being sought for a high-kicking karate club with a top success rate of black belts.

Darlaston Karate Club is looking for recruits as young as four to take part in its Ninja youth sessions.

Instructor Daniel Felton has been training youngsters in the art of karate for 12 years. In the past few months, four of his charges have

A TOTAL of £3 million has been earmarked to help pay for home adaptations for disabled and vulnerable residents in Walsall over the next four years.

The money is aimed at householders who do not meet the criteria for statutory disabled facilities grants or aids.

There are more than 1,000 disabled residents on the waiting list. Over three years the funding, if approved, would pay for 335 – or a third – of those on the list. The plans are set out in Walsall Council's draft capital programme for 2013-18.

Equally

The money would be allocated equally over the first four years, with £750,000 budgeted for each 12-month period. No cash has been allocated for the final year.

As part of the scheme, healthcare technology warning pensioners and vulnerable people of dangers in their homes – from burglars to gas leaks – has been installed in almost 10,000 properties.

Walsall Council and NHS Walsall set aside £1.8m for the first year of the scheme, which they say gives people more independence. Telecare and Telehealth services are being used to help people with long-term conditions, such as heart disease, respiratory illnesses, arthritis and dementia, stay at home for longer.

Hospital dance

AN EVENING of ballroom and sequence dancing will be held by a Walsall group in South Staffordshire to raise money for New Cross Hospital.

The Pelsall Kidney Machine and Research Committee will hold the dance at Wombourne Civic Centre on Saturday from 8pm to 11pm.

Tickets cost £4 and are available by calling 01922 683159 or 01902 893872.

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NEWS

'Good citizen' convicted after dog attacks child

A NINE-YEAR-OLD boy was mauled by his neighbour's Staffordshire bull terrier as he played with his young sister, a court heard.

He suffered bites to his head, arm, leg and bottom when he was "cornered" by the dog. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that he needed stitches and had to have surgery as a result of being attacked by the five-year-old animal, named Ozzy, in Brook Road, Portobello.

Its owner, Darren Phillips, admitted being in charge of a dog that was dangerously out of control.

Last week he was handed a nine-month community order.

Miss Alka Brigue, prosecuting, said the youngster was playing with his 12-year-old sister when the dog, which was not on a lead, launched its 90-second attack at about 9.50pm on May 12.

"The defendant ran over to the nine-year-old and had to hit the dog to pull it off the child and take him away.

"The child's father was in the front room watching TV when he heard screams," added Miss Brigue.

She said the youngster had to spend three days in hospital and he still suffered sleepless nights.

She added: "His parents

by Shaun Jepson

say he cries at night and is very concerned about going out of his home."

Mr Patrick Currie, for Phillips, 43, of Brook Road, said the dog had been a family pet and had never shown "any sign of aggression".

He added that his client had previously been given two good citizen awards by the police.

"In this case, the incident occurred and the defendant's response was to take immediate responsibility for what happened," said Mr Currie.

Judge Amjad Nawaz handed Phillips a nine-month community order and nine months supervision. He was banned from being in charge of an animal for 18 months. The judge said: "I approach this case on the basis that it was something that occurred out of the blue."

Group win award



Celebrating winning a Walsall volunteer award are, from left, Cyndey Ray and Kimberley Lea, and back, Chris Edwards and Matthew Nolan

MEMBERS of a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) support team have received an award from Walsall's mayor at the town's Voluntary Action ceremony.

Another Walsall won the Volunteer Engaging Organisation of the Year prize for their work with other local LGBT groups, which saw them involved with 2012's first Walsall Pride event. The team, which provides support to the LGBT community in the borough, was formed three years ago and has secured £2,477 of funding from the Community First initiative. For more information contact Matthew Nolan on 07716273748

Moxley gang alert

POLICE patrols are being maintained in Moxley following complaints about gangs of young people congregating in the area. Concerns over rowdy groups gathering near the Queen Street park area have been raised with officers.

The Darlaston South neighbourhood team say a visible presence is in place with patrols at key times.

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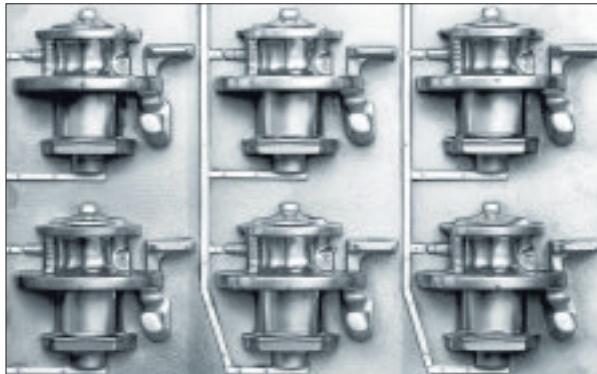
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NEWS

Focus on a photographer with eye for the unusual



Moulding Chambers, by Shane Butler, runner-up in Young photographer category



Walsall College photography student Shane Butler, 19, is presented with his award by Richard Halstead, region director Midlands of EEF

A WALSALL photography student has snapped his way to second place in a national competition.

Shane Butler, of Bloxwich, was awarded the silver prize at the 'Made in Britain' Photography Awards 2012 at the House of Commons.

The Walsall College HND Photography student beat more than 800 other entrants to be named runner-up in the young photographer category.

He won £500 for his 'Moulding Chambers' entry, an image of casting moulds made at Walsall firm Chamberlin and Hill.

Shane, 19, said: "Having my photo selected for a prize out of the hundreds which were submitted is an amazing achievement."

Quirky

"I have a real interest in photographing anything that's a bit quirky and slightly different from the norm."

"I chose Chamberlin and Hill as they have a great facility which gave me the opportunity to experiment with light, shade and reflections."

The contest challenged photographers to capture a component made in the UK. It was sponsored by Canon and hosted by EEF, organising body for UK manufacturers.

Photography lecturer Ian Male said: "We are delighted that Shane's talents have been recognised in this competition. Taking part has also given him valuable experience."

"I see this as a major step for Shane in his quest to become a professional photographer," he added.

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Day 2: After breakfast, first stop is the Victorian town of Ventnor which has a warm, Mediterranean feel due to the Gulf Stream. Benefiting from recent large investment, from here we visit Alum Bay and view the famous 'Needles'. There's time to browse and enjoy lunch if you wish. This afternoon we visit Godshill. As well as the picture-postcard village itself, there's also a superb model village you may like to visit. We've booked you a treat - afternoon tea at 'The Old Smithy' a 17th Century cottage complete with herb gardens and a very nice tea shop. Afternoon tea is included.

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Day 4: Today is left free for you to relax and enjoy the facilities at Norton Grange.

Day 5: After a last, breakfast - it's time to go home!

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Day 2: Enjoy a hot or cold buffet breakfast before we leave the hotel for some free time, to see the shops and sights of Oxford Street, Regent Street and Covent Garden area of London, we leave London later this afternoon for home.

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Day 4: One last breakfast, then we travel home.

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Durham city is not to be missed. It is quite compact, so easy to get around. Durham has a wonderful Cathedral and a magnificent Castle and many other historic buildings. After a good time in Durham, we go on to our hotel near Darlington.

We arrive early evening with time to settle in before dinner.

Day 2: Enjoy breakfast, then we'll check out and head for York - always worth a visit, so much to see and do. We'll stay here until about 3:30pm and then we leave for home.

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A Navy nightmare is finally overcome by the power of creative dentistry

Clive's transformation

Traditional options

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ONE of the most advanced restorative options for denture wearers is available in Dudley and Wolverhampton. An implant system called All-on-4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day – ideal for people with busy lifestyles.



All smiles – Clive with wife Margaret

C LIVE was so afraid of the dentist he plucked up all of his courage and begged him to extract all of his teeth so that he'd never have problems again.

That was more than 20 years ago, but what the retired sales director didn't know was that his tooth troubles were far from over.

Following the extractions dentures were fitted and he no problems for a few years. But the ageing process took its toll and Clive experienced stability problems with the lower denture as his gums receded. For five years he endured the embarrassment of ill-fitting teeth, sore spots and denying himself favourite foods.

Clive recalls his first dental nightmare: Stationed at Malta, the Royal Navy man suddenly had raging toothache. "I'd been drinking to dull the pain but as soon as I was back on board the duty dentists was summoned. He'd been drinking too

and when he injected me broke off the needle in my gum. That was me finished with dentists." In recent years Clive had four denture relines to help the stability issues, but none provided a long-term solution.

Clive decided to have implant-retained dentures. He was referred by Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), whose Denture Clinic is based at North Street, Dudley, and in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, to implantologist Mr Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc. Mr Pugh carried out the surgery and the prosthetics were hand-crafted by Mr Burchell.

Since having the implant-retained dentures, Clive has been able to bite into crispy apples and indulge himself with pork crackling. "It's the best money I've ever spent and it's been a real boost. I was dreading having it done, but I can honestly say I felt no pain at all," he says.

The Denture Clinic now offers a full service at Fresh Dental, Bearwood, Smethwick.

CLUB NEWS

WI meats up with butcher

BILBROOK WI

CHRISTMAS festivities all went off as planned. The group carol service at St. Pauls Church, Coven was well attended and two members from each group were invited to participate.

The Christmas meal at Essington Fruit Farm was an excellent night, the food was up to its usual high standard and there was much hilarity over the quiz and the raffle where everyone gets a prize. Thanks go to president Julie Hammersley for organising the evening.

Finally at the group's own Christmas party, members were entertained by The Codswall Singers who were all on top form. Another successful evening.

For the January meeting our speaker was Codsall butcher Alan Bennett, who told of his early days as a young boy when he first went into the butchering trade under the wing of Gill's Butchers.

He has become well-known for his award-winning flavoured sausages, his latest being 'The Bucks Fizz' and his award was presented to him by Cheryl Baker one of the singers in the band of the same name.

The ladies finished the evening enjoying a few samples of sausage and pork pie. This was followed by refreshments and the raffle. The first prize was won by Mrs Bennett who had accompanied her husband for the evening.

Guest draws on his experience as artist



Speaker Geoff Tristram with chairman Mary Jones, right and speaker's secretary Pauline Handley with other committee members

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 39 members and one visitor to the January meeting at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath where the management kindly treated everyone to a glass of sparkling wine to celebrate the New Year.

A three-course lunch was followed by the speaker Geoff Tristram, an artist and cartoonist. His talk was entitled Confessions of an Artist, which he illustrated with slides taken of his paintings and amusing stories.

Seven years ago he started writing and

has now published 10 very amusing books, which members were able to purchase.

The February meeting will be the AGM, in March Peter Shelly talks about "A Handful of Straw" and in April Shirley Thompson, notary public - a local solicitor. A coach outing in the spring is under discussion.

DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

The Guild Choir are going to a lunch at Calderfields Restaurant this month.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 5 at Walsall Central Hall Methodist Church in the Mellish Room at 7pm. Penny Wheat will talk about 'The Perils of Public Speaking'.

Beetle Drive 'hilarious'

CENTRAL TOWNSWOMEN

DUE to inclement winter weather, no speakers have been arranged. Instead it had been decided to arrange a Beetle Drive for the January meeting.

This proved to be a wonderful and hilarious event for all. It took place immediately after chairman Brenda

White had opened the meeting and dealt with the business.

A small number of prizes, including a booby were won during the Beetle Drive.

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Crime and safety is on the agenda at meeting

RESIDENTS of Aldridge will have the opportunity to discuss how to make their area safer at a community meeting at the start of next month.

Senior managers from Walsall Council, West Midlands Fire Service, West Midlands Police, NHS Walsall and social landlords will hear from local people about their concerns during the meeting.

Councillors

It is being organised by Aldridge and Beacon Area Partnership.

Ward councillors will also be present to listen to concerns and ideas at the meeting on Tuesday, February 5, at Aldridge Youth Theatre, Noddy Park Road from 5.30pm to 8pm.

Those wishing to raise an issue are asked to submit their questions beforehand to area manager John Morris, this can be done by calling (01922) 653711 or via email to MorrisJohn@walsall.gov.uk

Kennels call to help dogs

DONATIONS of blankets and food are needed to help abandoned dogs care for at a kennels in Aldridge. The team of helpers at Aldridge Voluntary Animal Rescue are also in need of dog leads and collars. Contact the kennels via email at info@aldriderescue.co.uk or by visiting the website www.aldriderescue.co.uk

Transport museum bosses delighted by public support

A PLAN to open a museum collection of historic transport vehicles to the region's school children is one step nearer after a successful meeting in Aldridge.

The future of the Aston Manor Road Transport Museum, originally located in Birmingham until a wrangle with the city council forced its move, had seemed uncertain after it was forced to find a new home for the second time in two years.

On leaving the city the museum had found a site in Aldridge on the Beecham Business Park, in Northgate, last October.

The museum, with up to 30 vehicles, faced an uncertain future after being told it needed to move from the former Jack Allen dustcart production line in Aldridge.

Now under plans put together by the group's loyal volunteers the unique collection of buses, cars and bicycles will be opened to school groups at its new home in Shenstone Drive.

A meeting held on Sunday between the group, neighbouring residents and transport enthusiast dealt with problems and helped gather support for the museum's plans to provide a resource for children this year.

Despite concerns that the meeting would not go ahead due to heavy snow, residents pitched in donating shovels and grit to clear the snow.

More than 80 people from Aldridge, Walsall and even Solihull made their way through the poor weather

by Tom Mason

conditions to make it to the event, which also featured displays by local model railway enthusiasts.

Director of the museum Alan Bishop said: "It finally feels like we are in the right area. People seem to be appreciative of what we are trying to do."

Turnout

"The turnout was fantastic considering the weather and it makes me wonder what it would have been like."

He said that the group had many ideas to discuss including creating a space where visiting groups could hold meetings, exhibitions on the region's history and developing ties with the Chasewater Light Railway.

"We just need to knuckle down now and raise the cash needed to get things going," added Mr Bishop.

They relocated from Birmingham after a row with the city council over rent. They moved to Beecham Business Park in 2011 before being informed autumn that they needed to leave by the end of October.



Martin Fisher, Alan Bishop and Emily Gough at the museum's new home in Shenstone Drive



Director Alan Bishop cleaning up at the motor museum



Director Emily Gough and volunteers at the site in Aldridge

Summer is target for opening of a new pub

THE TRANSFORMATION of a landmark former bingo hall and cinema into a pub is poised to be completed this summer.

Work to turn the now empty hall in Anchor Road, Aldridge, into a Wetherspoons is expected to start by April and take about 10 weeks to complete. The aim is to open by about mid-summer.

The scheme creating 40 jobs has been in the pipeline for more than 18 months.

The building was the Avion Super Cinema when opened in the 1930s before becoming a bingo hall, which closed in summer 2009.

Planning permission was granted by Walsall Council. Wetherspoons spokesman Eddie Gershon said the timescale was still to be confirmed but added: "The intention is to go on site in the next three months and open 10 weeks after."

Some demolition was done by the landowner ahead of the pub chain taking over.

Blood donors are in demand

THE NHS Blood and Transplant service is appealing for volunteers to attend a blood donor session in the village to help meet the demand from local hospitals.

It is being held on Friday, February 1, at the Community Centre at Anchor Meadow, Middlemore Lane, from 1.30 to 3.30pm and then from 4.30 to 7.30pm.

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REVIEWS

Wolf's at the door for Formidable rockers

The Joy Formidable - Wolves gig

Music**Wolf's Law**

THIS could be the year that Welsh-Wolverhampton rockers The Joy Formidable finally graduate from 'the next big thing' to premier league rock star status. But I am not sure if Wolf's Law, their second proper album, is the one to do it.

The guitar blizzard is indeed, well, formidable but this album could have

been made 20 years ago with its sheezer tendencies, livened up with a bit of Britpop (Welsh pop?) attitude.

Ritzy Bryan remains a powerful front woman, ably supported by the rhythm section of bassist Rhydian Dafydd (bass) and Wulfrunian Matt Thomas (drums).

Anyone who saw them supporting Muse last year can vouch for their live punch, and they should be a knockout at the Wulfrun Hall on March 1. LB

Moonshine and mayhem with hillbilly gangsters**DVD/Blu-Ray****Lawless (18)**

BASED on a true story, probably rather loosely, this tale of backwoods bootlegger brothers in prohibition-era America is a stylish and very violent gangster thriller.

It comes from the Australian team of director John Hillcoat (*The Road*) and writer (and rock star) Nick Cave.

Set in early 1930s Virginia, it tells of good ol' boys the Bondurant brothers, played by Tom Hardy, Jason Clarke and Shia LaBeouf. They run their rural bar despite a ban on booze and make a lucrative income distilling illegal hooch, bribing the local lawmen with a few crates of the hard stuff.

However, a corrupt district attorney brings in a Chicago cop to crack down on the Bondurant boys when they stubbornly refuse to pay his bribes.

Enter the real star of the movie, Guy Pearce, as preening, perfumed and poison-tongued sadist Special Deputy Charlie Rakes.

He delivers a vicious beating to the youngest Bondurant – an impulsive youth as played by LaBeouf – setting in motion a feud.

Pearce's oily-haired dandy is a memorable villain, necessary to make viewers care about bland hicks the "invincible" Bondurants, though Tom Hardy does have John Wayne-like presence as the older brother.

Like most gangster movies, the female roles are under-written, not giving Mia Wasikowska or Jessica Chastain, as girlfriends, much to do. Great soundtrack though.



Shia LaBeouf as Jack Bondurant takes on the law in Lawless
Picture: PA Photo/Entertainment In Video

Code Name: Geronimo (15)

THIS is an efficient if unremarkable code-drama on the US Navy Seals operation to track down and eliminate Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan.

The shaky camera action is well done but the tacked on story about rivalry between two soldiers is unnecessary and distracting.

More interesting is the vital surveillance work of the bickering Pakistani agents, who were apparently left behind to face the wrath of the authorities.

Leon Burakowski

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has announced 18 artists who will be part of its year-long programme, Rep Foundry.

Created under The Rep's new artistic director Roxana Silbert, the project aims to discover and promote the Midlands' most promising stage talent.

The group of six writers, six directors and six theatre makers will receive mentoring and support from staff at The Rep.

As well as masterclasses with professionals there will be an opportunity for the artists to present work in progress in front of an audience at monthly shows called Scratch performances.

The artists hail from across the region including Walsall, Birmingham, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre is currently undergoing re-development as part of the new Library of Birmingham, which will see the two cultural venues sharing public spaces and a new purpose-built 300 seat auditorium.

Venues

Until it returns to its home in 2013, The Rep is producing work for a range of different venues across Birmingham as well as continuing its work with writers, young people and an ambitious community programme.

The Rep will celebrate its centenary in February and will reopen its doors in September 2013 with the first season of productions under the new artistic directorship of Roxana Silbert.

Ms Silbert, who has also worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, said: "We've

been overwhelmed by the quality and range of response to our call out for writers and directors. The final 18 that we've chosen are some of the most talented emerging theatre makers from the West Midlands."

"We're looking forward to supporting and developing some exciting and adventurous new work with them."

"Through Rep Foundry we are aiming to forge a generation of theatre makers who, as the theatre celebrates its centenary, will take us into the next 100 years."

The first Rep Foundry scratch performance takes place on February 28 at 8pm at the Old Rep Theatre, Station Street, Birmingham, and then on the last Thursday of the month at The Edge, in Cheapside, Digbeth.

For tickets, costing £5, call 0121 236 4455.

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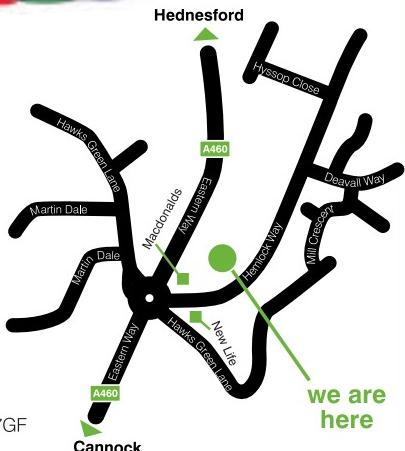
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NEWS

Burns Night party



Owner Scott Murray and piper Hamish McDowell look to celebrate Burns Night at the Premier Suite, Cannock

A POPULAR Cannock venue is celebrating the birthday of Scotland's favourite son with a Burns Night weekend.

The celebrations in honour of poet Robert Burns start at 7.30pm on Saturday, January 26 at the Premier Suite, in High Green.

Entertainment includes Scottish party band Celtica, a Rod Stewart tribute, highland dancers and bagpipers from Stirling. A DJ will play tracks from Scottish bands including Bay City Rollers, The Proclaimers, Wet Wet Wet and Simple Minds.

The evening will include a Scottish themed meal complete with haggis, neeps and tatties. Tickets are £24.50 each. The event starts at 7.30pm.

On Sunday, January 27 a Scottish themed family Sunday lunch will be served from noon, to include a traditional Scottish Ceilidh band, piper, highland dancers and children's magician. Sunday lunch is £15.50 for adults and £5.95 for children. Under 5's eat for free.

Scott Murray, owner of The Premier Suite, said: "This is our sixth Burns Weekend and it is always a great weekend."

For any other information or to make a booking ring The Premier Suite on 01543 572092.

Boxer's support for Till comeback

BOXER Peter Till has received a special message from his legendary friend and former sparring partner Barry McGuigan ahead of his comeback fight.

Till retired as a pro in 1996 – but will step back into the ring for the main event at a boxing at The Premier Suite in High Green, Cannock, on Wednesday January 30.

He was due to fight in November but his opponent pulled out at the last minute.

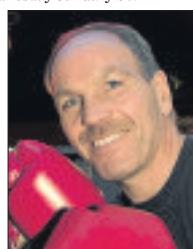
The 49-year-old fighter will be raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK in memory of his father George, known as Fono, who died from the disease, aged 58.

Just weeks before the fight he has received a touching message from former World featherweight champion McGuigan, with whom he used to spar.

Till, from Coalpool, said: "He sent me a text message wishing me all the best for the fight saying he thought it was a lovely gesture raising money in memory of my father. I was very touched by it and it has spurred me on to train even harder leading up to the fight."

The former Midlands area lightweight champion and a former UK number one had 52 professional fights winning 30, losing 21 and drawing 11.

He became friends and sparring partner to Barry McGuigan following a fight



Comeback fighter Peter Till against Neil Haddock in Port Talbot, Wales, which he won on points.

After approaching McGuigan for a chat and advice, he invited Peter to his home near Luton for sparring sessions. They have remained friends ever since.

There will be six bouts on the night including five undercard fights, culminating in Till's six three minute round contests.

Tickets start from £15. Call 01543 572092 or Peter Till on 07432 142343.

Bound for the Sheepwalks

WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Kinver for a 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday on highlands on the Worcestershire-South Staffs border.

Kinver Sheepwalks is a moderate walk on lane and field paths over smooth high grassland with views to the far distance.

Non-members are always welcome and should contact the walk leaders for further information on (01922) 637850.

Further information about the Walsall Group is available at the www.walsallramblers.co.uk website.

NEWS

Parents are warned to beware of danger dolls



Stephen and Tammy McMullan and Skye-Lilly and the dolls which have caused so much concern

PEOPLE across the Black Country are being warned to beware of dangerous dolls on sale.

They come in various shapes and names such as crawling dolls with a polka-dots dress, baby dolls with a picture of an animal's head on the chest and fruit head dolls.

They are all subject to a Europe-wide product recall after it emerged they contain phthalates, a poisonous chemical used to soften plastics.

The chemical is banned in children's toys because it can cause cancer, deformities in unborn babies and infertility in men.

The dolls were imported from China. Some were sold without a CE mark and there were no instructions for use or specific warnings. CE marking is a declaration by the manufacturer that the product meets all the appropriate provisions of the relevant legislation.

Playing

Sandwell Trading Standards have received six complaints in connection with these dolls.

One consumer in Cradley Heath reported her children being ill after playing with a fruit head doll.

Cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Ian Jones said: "These toys are potentially lethal for children as they do not comply with the toy safety directive.

"I would urge people who have purchased these dolls to return them and request a full refund."

Bob Charnley, Trading Standards Manager advised "By law all toys should bear a CE mark that demonstrates they have been examined and tested to ensure compliance with essential safety standards.

"Trading standards are trying to find any of the dolls in Sandwell and are working to remove them from sale."

Anyone who thinks they have bought one of these dolls should call Citizens Advice consumer service on 08454 040506.

One mother told how she had let her one-year-old daughter play with the dolls before finding out about the ban on the internet.

Tammy McMullan, 23, of Quarry Bank, Dudley, let her daughter Skye-Lilly play with the two colourful fruit head dolls, but then found a warning from trading standards officers in Blackpool who described the toys as dangerous.

Mrs McMullan, of Robin Hood Road, said the toys were bought from a stall by her mother Lisa Chetkowsky-Randall and her husband Stephen's grandmother Edna Hill. She said: "I was horrified when I found out".

Taxi and coach business hub is planned for site

A FORMER scrapyard in Willenhall is poised to be used for a taxi and coach hire business. The site in Watery Lane would cater for up to four large coaches, six small coaches and nine taxis or vehicles at a time.

It is understood the site is vacant but was formerly used as open storage with a section operated as a scrap yard.

The coach business would operate between 6am and midnight.

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embedded within the culture of the company and its employees.

Cedric, whilst still actively involved in the business, has passed over the reigns to his sons Adrian and Philip, who as part of the Hammonds Group have successfully diversified into providing Vehicle Transport Logistics and Employee Fleet Solutions to major companies such as Lex Autolease, RBS, Black Horse, Lombards, GE Capital and Renault Retail Group to name just a few.

These additional service provisions have helped the garage to continue offering a competitive pricing policy on traditional repairs and MOT's, a strategic move on the part of the company

to support local customers in this challenging economic climate. An example of this is the £24.99 MOT offered on all cars this Winter.

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MEMORY LANE

The large Baker family circa 1897. Joe, one of 15 children, is third from the left on back row next to brother Will



The Bakers with the Lawsons and Bulls on a day out in the country. Joe is at the front with his sister Harriet on the right



Joseph Baker (1876-1955)



Lizzie, whom he married in 1902

Meeting the wife was one of Perks of Joe's hospital stay

by Tom Mason

RESEARCH carried out by members of Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society has revealed the interesting life of one of the village's former residents.

Joseph Baker was born on January 6, 1876 at his grandparents' cottage on Saredon Road and was the eldest of the Bakers' 15 children.

His father William was a miner and well-known in the local pubs and taverns for his loud and overbearing manner.

Later in life the Bakers moved to Littlewood. William, now an overman at the pit, was involved in a terrible disaster that left him severely injured.

William would be out of work for at least 12 months, but luckily the family had been involved in religious revivals that had saved William from drink. It was his friends at the Salem including Rev Thomas Seymour that kept the family going.

He returned to work as a clerk and to sup-

plement his earnings he began to deliver fish from the station to the pits. The successful business led the family, with help from William Crutchley a friend from the Salem, to buy a home in Low street and turn it into a shop. The store was such a success and it soon became a general store.

At the age of 10, Joe became involved in running the store. Many people at this time relied upon credit and once refused at one store would often move on to the next.

To get their money back, Joe, still a young man at this stage, took the debtors to Walsall's county court, but it made little difference and the family was eventually forced to sell with more than £400 worth of outstanding debt.

By the age of 12, Joe was down the Plant pit earning a shilling a day hauling coal to the surface. Out of these wages, he was allowed to keep a third which he saved and spent on a melodeon and magic lantern.

He set up a show with friend Dickey Merchant and charged local children a ha'penny a time.

Joe would spend the rest of his life down the pit and had two accidents the final one crushing his leg forcing him to take up clerical work at Hawkins Colliery office that he continued doing until 1946.

Crush

It was during his recuperation that Joe was visited by his childhood crush Lizzie Perks and the two were to marry on Christmas Day 1902, setting up home in Hill street. The two would have one child Harriet, who would later marry local lad Sammy Hockock in 1926.

In later life, Joe became devoted to the village that he loved, helping out with a number of community projects. During the Second World War, he served on the parish council and was an ARP warden.

Joe eventually passed away aged 79 on March 4, 1955.



Hawkins Colliery office staff with Joe second left on the front row



Joe Baker recuperating in Wolverhampton Hospital in 1900

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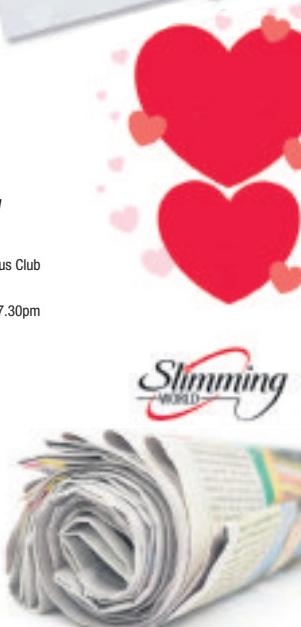
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What's On! Walsall

Colts street show to be seen again

THE next street performance raising awareness of the Walsall's Bayards Colts ceremonial clubs is on Saturday, February 16. The Lovers and the Pirates will be performed near Asda in High Street at noon, 1.30pm and 3pm. A theatre version will be staged at Bloxwich Library Theatre on February 17 at 2.30pm and 7pm. Tickets cost £5.

Author to give talk at Central Library

AN AUTHOR will visit Walsall Central Library next month to speak about her work.

Fiona Shaw will be at the Lichfield Street venue on Saturday, February 2, between 2pm and 3.30pm to meet readers.

She will be talking about her latest novel, A Stone's Throw.

Love in the air at romantic readings

ROMANTIC readings will be given at Walsall Leather Museum on Friday, February 15.

Cupid: Quivers of Passion is taking place at the venue at 7.30pm. The event costs £16, including a buffet, and can be booked on (01922) 721153.

Opportunities for the musical youth

YOUNG singers and musicians are invited to an open mic night at Bookmark Bloxwich tomorrow (Friday).

The show at the Elmwood Row venue starts at 6.30pm. Call (01922) 712069 to reserve a slot.

Rhydian on the Rocky road back for 40th anniversary

THE REGION'S theatres are back with a bang after panto season thanks to an acclaimed new version of a vintage Ealing comedy, the return of a raunchy rock musical favourite and a classic bodice-ripper.

Wolverhampton Grand stages The Ladykillers, a stage version of the 1950s British black comedy about an old lady pitted against a criminal gang, which has been revamped by Father Ted co-writer Graham Linehan.

It's on at the Lichfield Street theatre from Monday to Saturday and has a top-notch cast, including Michelle Dorrance (who was Betty in TV's Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em), Clive Mantle and Cliff Parisi.

Bronte

Fresh from playing the lead role in Jesus Christ Superstar, Ben Forster becomes Brad opposite Emmerdale's Roxanne Pallett as Janet, being seduced by Oliver Thornton's Frank 'n' Furter in the naughty Rocky Horror Show.

It's at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

They are likely to be upstaged by The X Factor's Welsh singing sensation



Michelle Dorrance as Mrs Wilberforce in black comedy The Ladykillers

Rhydian, who Time Warps back to the city where he was a student, wearing not much more than a posing pouch as Rocky in this 40th anniversary tour.

Hull Truck stage a version of Charlotte Bronte's gothic romance Jane Eyre at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton for three performances during Tuesday and Wednesday.

Everything is hunky dory for Rhydian, returning to Birmingham to camp it up in the Rocky Horror Show



Everything is hunky dory for Rhydian, returning to Birmingham to camp it up in the Rocky Horror Show



Damn it, Janet – Ben Forster as Brad and Roxane Pallett as Janet, held prisoner by singing alien sex addicts

Nice to see the Strictly dancers Strictly Come Dancing, NIA, Birmingham

NICE to see them – and it certainly was. As the sixth Strictly Come Dancing tour opened to a packed Birmingham NIA, the atmosphere was electric.

Those famous Brucie words echoed around the packed arena and although he wasn't there in person, his voice could be heard booming out from the two large screens by the stage.

The thousands who made the precarious journey through wintry conditions to see the show were richly rewarded.

Opening to the sounds of Gold from the Strictly Singers – that's what the show was. Hosted again by bubbly Kate Thornton the tour boasted everything, stunning costumes, outspoken judges and dazzling dance routines.

The Magnificent Seven, as head judge Len Goodman referred to them, included reigning champion Louis Smith, Denise Van Outen, Phil Tufnell, Dani Harmer, Fern Britton, Lisa Riley and Michael Vaughan.

Joining Len on the judging panel was the formidable Craig Revel Horwood and the excitable Bruno Tonioli but the final vote was down to the audience.

Louis picked up another win despite Denise scoring a perfect 60 from the judges. At the bottom were Tufnell and Vaughan.

A mixed line-up of talent but a terrific show. Bruce would have been proud.

Sue Attwater

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 26.01.13

CHOICE



David James Elliott

Impact

Channel 5, 6.20pm

If you like movies such as Independence Day, Armageddon and Deep Impact, then this offering made for a fraction of their budgets, should also appeal. The partial threat is a rogue asteroid hidden in a meteor shower which hits the moon. Before you can say: "It's the end of the world as we know it!", the satellite is on a collision course with billions of screaming folks. David James Elliott, Natasha Henstridge, Benjamin Sadler and James Cromwell play the protagonists trying to find a way to survive before Earth is turned into rubble.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Rugby Wales Grand Slam 2012. **1.30** Live Wales Athletics: UK International Match. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Animal Antics.

6.00 Richard Hammond's Secret Service. A woman's home is ruined by graffiti.

6.45 Britain's Brightest. Clare Balding hosts the game show in which six contestants aim to prove they have the brain power to claim the ultimate prize of £50,000.

8.00 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to score a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draw with OJ Borg.

8.50 Casualty. It is the day of Yvonne's funeral and Jordan is shocked to receive a message asking him to visit the teenager accused of her attack, while her real assailant ends up in the ED.

9.40 Mr Brown's Boys. Agnes resorts to the internet to find a date for Valentine's Day. (R)

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Film: Meet the Parents. (2000) A male nurse makes a disastrous bid to impress his girlfriend's father – a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller; National Lottery Update.

12.15 Film: Buster. (1988) 1.45 Weatherview. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Black Rider. (1954) **7.05** Film: The Mouse That Roared. (1959) **8.25** Live Tennis: Australian Open. **8.30** Top Gear. (R) **9.12** Indian Food Mania Easy. **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **2.25** Live Bowls. **4.30** Jaguars Born Free: Natural World Special. (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.00 The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. Famous faces enter the Great British Bake Off tent. (R)

7.00 The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. Famous faces enter the tent, with one of the contestants making the smallest cake ever seen on Bake Off. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. The platoon takes an efficiency test in a bid to prove its worth, but instead finds a tea lady with onions from Jones's van. Classic comedy, guest starring Fulton Mackay. (R)

8.30 Natural World: Kangaroo Dundee. Part one of two. Documentary about a man living in the Outback who shares his one-room tin shack with baby kangaroos he has nursed back to health.

9.30 Howard Goodall's Story of Music. The series sees the composer examines the history and development of music, beginning by looking back at the first faltering steps humanity took toward creating it.

10.30 QI XL. With Sarah Millican, Jimmy Carr and Johnny Vegas. (R)

11.15 Film: Hard Rain. (1998) Action adventure, starring Christian Slater.

12.45 Bowls. **1.45** Close.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** TV News. **10.25** Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.10** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** Dinner Date. (R) **4.00** The Nation's Favourite Abba Song. (R) **5.30** Regional Programmes: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Top 100 Holidays. Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 vacation-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips.

7.00 Splash! Omnid Djallili, Jake Canuso, Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards, Charlotte Jackson and the two celebrities who progressed from heat three battle it out in the semi-final of the diving contest.

8.30 Take Me Out. A basketball player, a gym owner, a music journalist and a fashion designer enter the love lift in the hope of impressing 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness presents the dating show.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Jools Holland, Alicia Keys, Adam Hills and Rose Byrne.

10.45 BBC News: Weather.

11.00 FA Cup Football Highlights.

12.30 The Store. **2.30** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Beach Volleyball. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The Morning Line. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Undercover Boss Australia. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **13.00** The Simpsons. (R) **14.00** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Channel 4 News.

6.35 4thought.tv. With some people believing the role of the godparent has been devolved in modern Britain, a member of the public talks about religion and an increasing secular society.

6.40 Film: Mrs Doubtfire. (1993) A divorced actor disguises himself as an ageing female Scottish housekeeper to get a job looking after his own children. Comedy, with Robin Williams, Sally Field and Alice Brosham.

9.00 World War II Dad. Godwyn is outraged when Mother Cecilia rejects his plans to build a palace on the convent estate and issues an edict giving the Priory control over all town land.

10.00 Film: The Hurt Locker. (2008) An American bomb disposal team in Iraq is assigned a new member whose reckless attitude puts all their lives at risk. Kathryn Bigelow's drama, with Jeremy Renner and Anthony Mackie.

12.40 Film: Cyrus. (2010) **2.15** Hollyoaks. **4.20** Smallville. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. (R) **11.00** Power Rangers: Dino Charge. (R) **11.10** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) **10.45** Family Guy. **11.30** American Dad! (R)

6.20 Impact. An asteroid strikes the moon, knocking its orbit out of kilter and setting it on a collision course with Earth. Disaster drama, starring David James Elliott. (R)

9.45 Film: The Matrix. (1999) A computer hacker joins rebel fighters to free the human race from a virtual-reality fantasy created by machines. Sci-fi action thriller, with Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne.

12.30 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live roulette games, complete with roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Michaela Strachan meets deadly lionfish, Ellie Harrison attends a dinner party in the desert, complete with chameleons guests, and Jamie Graham explores the world of art.

4.25 Great Artist. Tim Marlow examines the work of Dutch artist Jan Vermeer, who was renowned for his depictions of simple domestic life during the 17th century. **4.50** County Secrets. Historical spotlight on scenic counties in the UK, focusing on hidden histories and little-known facts about each location. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. Hana offers advice to Ernie. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. A curious parcel arrives at the house. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. Thomas takes holiday-makers on a trip. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano 8.00
 The Treasures of Ancient Rome
9.00 Borgen 11.00 The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold
ITV2
5.40 Film: Robots (2005) 7.25
 Film: Back to the Future (1985)
9.45 Take Me Out – The Gossip
10.30 Face Reaction 11.15 Film: The Fugitive (1993)
ITV3
4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00
 Doc Martin 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Film: In the Name of the Father (1993)
ITV4
2.25 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) 5.45 Live Aid Cup of Nations: Africa v Topi Kick-off 6.00pm
9.30 Mouthwash 9.30
 Film: Escape from New York (1981)
11.35 Film: American History X (1998)
E4
3.35 Rules of Engagement 6.00
 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Happy Endings 8.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00
 Film: Drillbit Taylor (2008) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory
Film4
3.20 Arthur's Hollowed Ground (1985) Comedy drama, starring Jimmy Jewel. **4.50** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser.
6.40 The Land Girls (1997)
8.50 Green Zone (2010) Paul Greengrass' thriller, starring Matt Damon. **11.10** White Noise (2004)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 27.01.13

CHOICE



Mark Jenkins

The Hotel Channel 4, 8pm

Admittedly, it can't be easy running a hotel; having the ability to keep everybody happy all the time and doing it through those stubbornly gritted teeth with a pseudo-friendly grin plastered across your face. But if Basil Fawlty can do it, Mark Jenkins is going to make damn sure he can. But he wants to go over and above running a hotel with a so-so reputation that simply ticks over – he wants to broaden The Grosvenor's horizons and attract new guests. Mark ventures into new territory as he plans an Indian night – complete with singing, dancing and lavish feast.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast:** *9.00 The Andrew Marr Show, 10.00 The Big Questions, 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead.* 12.25 *Countryfile.* (R) 1.25 *Call the Midwife.* (R) 2.25 *Escape to the Country.* (R) 3.25 *Chatsworth.* (R) 4.25 *Songs of Praise.* 5.00 *Africa.* (R)
- 6.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
- 6.30 Blandings:** Clarence needs someone to tell his niece Geraldine about it, while Freddie has married a Portuguese girl – now all he has to do is conceal the fact from Connie.
- 7.00 Countryfile:** A visit to south Wales, finding out what is being done to rejuvenate the sand dunes on the coast and hear about an missing German escapee from a Bridgend prisoner-of-war camp in 1944. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00 Call the Midwife:** The unexplained death of a newborn baby delivered by Cerys puts the midwife under pressure. A chance encounter returns Jimmy to Jenny's life and Chummy pursues a dream.
- 9.00 Ripper Street:** Reid and his team investigate a string of well-executed robberies, bringing Drake into conflict with his former army colonel.
- 10.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
- 10.25 Prisoner Number A26188:** Helga, a German woman who survived four Nazi concentration camps.
- 11.05 Room 101 – Extra Storage.**
- 11.45 The Celebrity Apprentice USA.**
- 1.10 Weathervane.** 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 Close, 7.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** (R) 7.30 A to Z of V Gardening. 8.15 *Live To Love: African Adventure.* 12.00 *Coast.* (R) 1.00 Film: *Cougar.* (1958) 2.30 *Live Bowls.* 5.15 *Ski Sunday.*
- 6.00 Flug It!** Paul Martin is joined by Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey to value items in Monmouth, south-east Wales, including a selection of old books and a pocket globe. (R)
- 6.30 Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journey:** Kate Humble and Dr Helen Czerski follow the Earth's trip around the sun from January to the March equinox. (R)
- 7.30 Open All Hours.** Pilot episode of Roy Clarke's comedy about misery and hope. Roy Clarke and his put-upon nephew Granville. Starring Ronnie Barker and David Jason. (R)
- 8.00 Top Gear:** New series. The motoring magazine returns. Jeremy Clarkson builds a small car and pitches the concept in the Dragons' Den and Damian Lewis is the Star of a Reasonably Priced Car.
- 9.00 Wonders of Life:** New series. Professor Brian Cox travels around the world to investigate whether the emergence of life was an inevitable consequence of the physical laws that govern the universe.
- 10.00 Racing Legends:** Colin McRae.
- 11.00 Fleetwood Mac – Don't Stop:** A profile of the rock band. (R)
- 12.00 Film:** *Intermission.* (2003) 1.40 *Sign Zone:* Holby City. (R) 2.40 *Close.*

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** *Handy Manny.* 6.10 *Handy Manny.* 6.25 *The Hive.* (R) 6.30 *It's Alive.* (R) 6.45 *Shark Dan.* (R) 6.55 *Dino Dan.* (R) 7.05 *Almost Naked Animals.* (R) 7.15 *Almost Naked Animals.* (R) 7.30 *Almost Naked Animals.* (R) 7.40 *Matt Hatter Chronicles.* (R) 8.05 *Rated A for Awesome.* 8.15 *Rated A for Awesome.* 8.30 *Big Time Rush.* 9.00 *Antique Road Trip.* (R) 9.25 *House Guest in the Dark.* (R) 10.20 *60 Minute Makeover.* (R) 11.20 *The Best House Win Vive la France.* (R) 12.20 *ITV News: Weather.* 12.30 *Dickinson's Real Deal.* (R) 1.30 *Rosemary & Thyme.* (R) 2.30 *Murder. She Wrote.* (R) 3.25 *Regional Programme.* Weather. 3.30 *Live FA Cup Football.* 6.05 *ITV News: Weather.* 6.15 *Open All Hours.* The remaining stars compete in a school disco-themed show.
- 7.45 All Star Family Fortunes:** Actress Sheree Murphy and Towie star James Argent take part.
- 8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off:** The contestants who landed in the bottom two earlier tonight perform new routines in the battle for a place in next week's show.
- 9.00 Mr Selfridge:** Prima ballerina Anna Pavlova agrees to visit Selfridges, but Agnes' job looks to be under threat when a violent Reg reaches breaking point and gatecrashes the event.
- 10.00 ITV News at Ten:** Weather. 10.20 *FA Cup Football Highlights.* 11.20 *Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union.*
- 12.15 Grimefighters.** (R) 12.40 *The Store.* 2.40 *Monk.* (R) 3.30 *ITV Nightscreen.*

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) 6.35 *The Hoobs.* (R) 7.05 *Will & Grace.* (R) 7.25 *Everybody Loves Raymond.* (R) 7.55 *Everybody Loves Raymond.* (R) 8.25 *Frasier.* (R) 8.55 *Frasier.* (R) 9.30 *Sunday Brunch.* 12.00 *The Big Bang Theory.* (R) 12.30 *The Big Bang Theory.* (R) 1.00 *The Simpsons.* (R) 1.30 *Family Guy.* (R) 2.00 *Team. Annie.* (1982) 4.25 *Time Team.* 5.30 *Deal or No Deal.*
- 6.25 Channel 4 News.**
- 6.55 4thought.tv:** Members of the public talk about the role of godparents.
- 7.00 Come Dine with Me:** A week of dinner parties in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, featuring an American-themed evening, a Wild West-style bash and an Indian-themed evening involving ostrich egg and pig's ears.
- 8.00 The Hotel:** The Grosvenor hosts an Indian-themed night, featuring dancing, singing and a lavish feast – which falls well below the expectations of one millionaire guest.
- 9.00 Film: The Fighter:** (2010) Promising boxer Micky Ward's rise to a world championship bout, with the aid of his drug-addicted brother. Starring Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale. 11.20 *Film: The Firm.* (1993) After the murder of two of his colleagues, a law graduate discovers the company that has head-hunted him is controlled by the Mafia. Thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Gene Hackman.
- 2.05 Honeymoon.** (R) 2.40 *Elsewhere.* (R) 3.25 *Smallville.* (R) 4.05 *Deal or No Deal.* (R) 5.00 *Countdown.* (R) 5.45 *Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard.* (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig.** 6.05 *Roary the Racing Car.* (R) 6.15 *Fifi and the Flowertots.* (R) 6.25 *Postman Pat.* and *Ernie's Circus.* (R) 6.30 *The Men Show.* (R) 6.45 *Olive the Ostrich.* (R) 6.50 *Abby's Flying Fairy School.* (R) 7.00 *Boobarts and Custard Too.* (R) 7.05 *Bananas in Pyjamas.* (R) 7.20 *Animal Antics.* (R) 7.25 *Make Way for Ducklings.* (R) 7.30 *Friends.* (R) 7.50 *Mia Maow.* (R) 8.10 *Little Princess.* (R) 8.10 *The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.* (R) 8.25 *Angelina Ballerina.* (R) 8.45 *Rupert Bear.* (R) 9.00 *Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.* (R) 9.15 *Tony Travelling Circus.* (R) 9.25 *Roary the Racing Car.* (R) 9.40 *Jelly Jamm.* 10.00 *Power Rangers Samurai.* (R) 10.35 *Batman: The Brave and the Bold.* 11.10 *Monkey Man.* (R) 11.40 *Once Upon a Time.* (R) 12.40 *Film: Teen Wolf.* (1985) 2.00 *Film: See Spot Run.* (2001) 4.20 *Film: The Princess Bride.* (1987)
- 6.10 5 News Weekend.**
- 6.15 Film: Spider-Man 3.** (2007) Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco.
- 9.00 Person of Interest:** Reese recovers from being shot.
- 10.00 Film: My Best Friend's Girl.** (2008) Premieres. Romantic comedy, starring Dane Cook, Jason Biggs, Kate Hudson and Alana de la Garza.
- 11.55 Bunched Up Bodies:** Part two of two. A woman left with 10lb of excess skin after losing 15st. (R)
- 12.55 SuperCasino.** 4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.25 Great Artists. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.05 *Hana's Helpline.* (R) 5.15 *The Milkshake! Show.* (R) 5.40 *Thomas & Friends.* (R) 5.50 *Roary the Racing Car.* (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three:** *Don't Tell the Bride – Best Ever.* 8.00 *Film: Cool Runnings.* (1993) 8.30 *World's Craziestools.* 10.00 *Grease for Party Drugs.* 11.00 *Family Guy.* 11.45 *American Dad!*

BBC Four

- 7.00 *Timeshift: Of Ice and Men.* 8.00 *Holocaust: A Music Memorial Film from Auschwitz.* 9.30 *Mark Knopfler: A Life in Songs.* 10.30 *Film: Love Like Poison.* (2010)

ITV2

- 11.50 *Arena: Dave Brubeck: In His Own Sweet Way.*

ITV4

- 7.00 *Film: Toy Story.* (1995) 5.50 *Film: Back to the Future Part II.* (1989) 8.00 *The Best of You've Been Farmed.* 9.00 *The Magaluf Weekender.* 10.00 *Film: The Graduate.* (2008)

ITV3

- 3.40 *Lewis.* 4.40 *Murder. She Wrote.* 6.40 *Agatha Christie's Poirot.* 9.00 *The Best of the Royal Variety.* 10.00 *Film: The Graduate.* (1967)

ITV5

- 1.55 *Film: Captain Newman MD.* (1964) 4.30 *Live Africa Cup of Nations. Morocco v South Africa or Cape Verde v Angola.* (Kick-off 5.00pm) 7.30 *Police, Camera, Action!* 8.00 *Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union.* 9.00 *Film: Apocalypz Now.* (1979)

ITV4

- 4.30 *Revenge.* 5.30 *The Big Bang Theory.* 6.30 *New Girl.* 7.00 *How I Met Your Mother.* 7.30 *The Big Bang Theory.* 8.00 *Film: Fame.* (2009)

ITV5

- 10.05 *The New Normal.* 10.30 *2 Broke Girls.* 11.00 *My Mad Fat Diary.*

Film4

- 3.05 *The Iron Giant.* (1999) 4.45 *Rebound.* (2005) 5.00 *Marley and Me.* (2008) 8.50 *Django Unchained.* Interview Special. 9.00 *Allens.* (1986) Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Sigourney Weaver.

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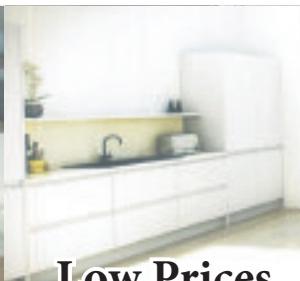


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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Assassins, Channel 5, 10pm

Hitman Robert Rath is planning to quit his lethal profession, especially when he is stalked by a ruthless younger assassin who has no qualms about killing innocent bystanders. But as Rath takes on his last assignment, he decides to protect his intended target after his rival comes gunning for her. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and Antonio Banderas. (1995)

TUESDAY

Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.55pm

Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin McGartland, who was recruited as a police informant in 1980s Belfast and sent on a mission to infiltrate the IRA. He rose swiftly through the ranks, providing vital information to the British authorities. Once he was exposed, he was tortured and forced to go into hiding. Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

Paper Moon, Channel 4, 2.55am

A Depression-era conman meets a canny nine-year-old orphan, whom he realises could be his daughter, and agrees to take her to her aunt. Along the way, he realises the little girl is just as cunning as he is, and they form a successful criminal partnership. Drama, starring Ryan O'Neal alongside real-life daughter Tatum. With Madeline Kahn and Randy Quaid. (1973)



The Ring 2, Wednesday, BBC1, 12.05am

WEDNESDAY

The Ring 2, BBC1, 12.05am

Journalist Rachel Keller and her son try to rebuild their shattered lives, moving from Seattle to Oregon and starting afresh. However, the vengeful spirit of Samara follows, and this time she is determined to destroy them. Sequel to the horror remake, starring Naomi Watts, Simon Baker and David Dorfman. (2005)

THURSDAY

Navy Seals, Channel 5, 10pm

The US Navy's elite commando force embarks on a dangerous covert mission to rescue hostages from an Arab terrorist in Beirut. However, the assignment proves far more serious than expected when they realise their enemies have acquired powerful stolen missiles. Action adventure, starring Charlie Sheen. (1990)

FRIDAY

The Last Samurai, Channel 5, 9pm

The emperor of Japan recruits an American Civil War veteran to train his troops in a bid to wipe out a rebel faction of samurai warriors. The soldier is taken captive when the imperial army is defeated, and comes to respect his enemies' traditions and code of honour. Historical adventure, starring Tom Cruise. (2003)

Pick of the Week

There's no cheesy role for returning Martine

Well, we've witnessed some extraordinary demises in Midsomer Murders, but here's one that really takes the biscuit – death by cheese.

Yes, you really did read that correctly. And what's more, the character involved is played by former soap princess Martine McCutcheon, who's TV really can be a bizarre concoction at times...

McCutcheon is actually rather good as Debbie Moffet, who is crushed to death by a giant round of cheese at the award-winning dairy where she worked, just hours after an argument at a parents' council meeting at Midsomer Pastures Prep School.

It's been a while since we saw McCutcheon acting, and it seems she enjoyed being back on the box.

"I'm a troublemaker in which is set around a posh prep school. My character is well-to-do and feels she's come from Albert Square. It's great to do something I wouldn't normally do, as she's not a nice piece of work."

Certainly after Debbie's body is discovered, her colleagues seem

more concerned about the state of the cheese than the woman herself – which probably tells you everything you need to know about her standing in the community.

Barnaby and Jones are also suspicious about the fact that nobody had a bad word to say about her – surely somebody somewhere must have had a crossed word with her at some point.

Eventually, the truth comes out. Debbie's daughter was about to be expelled from school; she was there on a scholarship which comes with strict rules not only for the pupil, but their parents too – and Debbie had broken one by having an affair with her boss, ex-rugby international Gregory Brantner.

Later, another body is found, this time with its mouth full of maggots. What can this mean?

Barnaby believes the answer lies in the evidence of a trap set by the police finds seemed to be linked to it. But piecing it all together is where the hard work really starts...

McCutcheon has been performing professionally since the age of 12

when she landed a role in an advert. Modelling assignments, bit parts in TV series and appearances in music videos followed. She then had a stint in girl band Milan before EastEnders' bosses came calling.

She spent four years in Albert Square as Tiffany, with her final episode gaining 22 million viewers.

Since then, her career has been hit-and-miss, with a stint as a pop star and successful roles on stage in My Fair Lady and on the big screen in Love Actually proving to be the highlights.

But maybe happiness in McCutcheon's private life is about to signal a return to stardom – she recently tied the knot with singer-songwriter Jack McManus.

She says: "We are best friends as well as lovers and totally supportive of one another. We feel that we can conquer anything the world throws at us as long as we have each other, and that's a rare thing."

Perhaps this could be her perfect moment at last.



Martine McCutcheon stars in Midsomer Murders, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Lewis

ITV, 9pm

In this concluding episode of a two-part story, Lewis realises that pallbearer Liam Jay was beaten up and left for dead because he knows something about Whitby's death. The killer then turns their attention to Liam's girlfriend, and only some quick-thinking by the veteran detective saves her from death when the narrowboat on which she lives is set alight. Hathaway's jaunt to Kosovo soon comes in handy too – Lewis finds out that the Faulkners have a farmhouse in Croatia that may hold vital clues, so he sends his pal to take a look around.

Rory and Will – Champions of the World

Channel 5, 9pm

Rory McGrath and Will Mellor – an odd coupling you may think, but they actually work well here. The duo's remit is to become the best in the world at a selection of bizarre events. They begin by journeying to King's Lynn, home of Alan Cooper, the supreme Reliant Robin racer. The famed three-wheelers are driven to near destruction in each race, as Will soon finds out; Rory, meanwhile, adopts some cunning tactics that might just ensure an unlikely win. After that, they try some more sedate pastimes, including coin-tossing, thumb-wrestling and pea-shooting.

TUESDAY

Emmerdale

ITV, 7pm

As a one-time teen mum, Debbie should know the signs that a young girl is about to get out of her

depth. So, when she spots 14-year-old Belle putting make-up on at the bus stop, and then heading back to the empty Dingle household arm-in-arm with Luke, she decides to tell Lisa what's going on. The concerned mother rushes home to find the teens canoodling on the sofa and forcibly separates them before warning Luke never to come back.

Dallas

Channel 5, 9pm

Like one of Ewing Oil's lucrative drilling sites, there's a rich seam of nostalgia to be gleaned from this slick revamp, but the loss of Larry Hagman last year was bound to leave fans moist of eye during his final performances. (Fans may note that a full episode later in the season will be devoted to JR's death). This week, Christopher attempts to gain the upper hand in his divorce from Rebecca Sutter (Julie Gonzalo). However, a bombshell soon scuppers his plans, so most of the family put their differences aside and joins forces. Elsewhere, Ann (Brenda Strong) and Bobby face an alarming secret from her past when Harris Ryland (Mitch Pileggi) blackmails her.

WEDNESDAY

Derek

Channel 4, 10pm

Last April, Ricky Gervais played Derek Noahs, a seemingly autistic 49-year-old care worker who worked at

Broadhill retirement home. It was one of the most touching, original comedy dramas of 2012, and now he's back directing, producing and starring in the first of a six-part series inspired by that pilot. Broadhill faces closure following a visit from the council, but the home's manager, Hannah (Kerry Godliman) is determined they stay open and rallies Derek, Dougie (Karl Pilkington) and Kev (David Earl) to raise money for the home.

THURSDAY

The Secret Life of Dogs

ITV, 9pm

Millions of people in Britain share their homes with a dog but how much do we really know about our four-legged friends? Don't worry, this documentary, narrated by Martin Clunes, isn't a shocking expose about the dark side of canines, but it will give us a new insight into their behaviour, and their incredible hearing and sense of smell. We also get to find out how dogs are putting these 'super powers' to work as we hear from the people who owe their lives to a mutt, including Maureen Burns, who believes her collie cross Max detected her breast cancer before the doctors did.



Rory and Will – Champions of the World, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe

BBC2, 10pm

When it comes to weekly TV review shows, BBC Two has the genre sewn up with The Culture Show and highbrow The Review Show covering similar territory. Thankfully Charlie Brooker has never been a member of the stroky chin brigade, and is more likely to ridicule those who are as here he takes a satirical look back at the events of the past seven days, whether it's news, telly, video games or anything else that winds him up. "Weekly Wipe will be a sort of Omnivipe, encompassing Newsnipe, Screenwipe, Gamesnipe and Staffnipe, for want of a better phrase," he Tweeted recently. Some may dislike Brooker's tone, but in a world of slick presenters who look great but say little worth hearing, he's always a breath of fresh air.

FRIDAY

Coronation Street

ITV, 7.30pm

So what if he's charming, well-spoken, and his idea of romance doesn't involve sharing a pack of pork scratchings in the Rovers Return? Lewis is still a wrong 'un. Not content with planning to break Gail's heart and empty her bank balance, the connman also blackmailing Kylie. He informs the horrified barmaid that he won't tell the rest of Weatherfield know that she could be carrying Nick's baby on the condition that she gets him the password to her mother-in-law's bank account. Meanwhile, Gail is getting ready to tell her family that she's moving to Italy using the £40,000 she's borrowed against the house, but her lover is nowhere to be seen – has he already done a runner with her cash?

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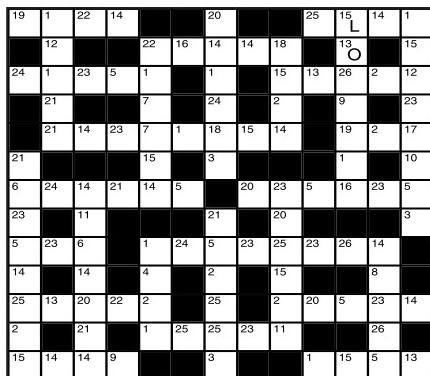


What's On!**Brain Gym**

No.205

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

V	H	A	X	S	A	T	P	B	E	Y	G	J	R
L	M	N	D	F	U	Z	K	Q	O	I	W	C	

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**ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS
IN ONE HANDY APP!****Circlegram**

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTION:
The letter
requested by
the question
mark is I.
Ferrari,
Maserati,
Bugatti,
all sports car
manufacturers.

**ALL YOUR PUZZLE
NEEDS IN ONE
HANDY APP!****Double Crossword**

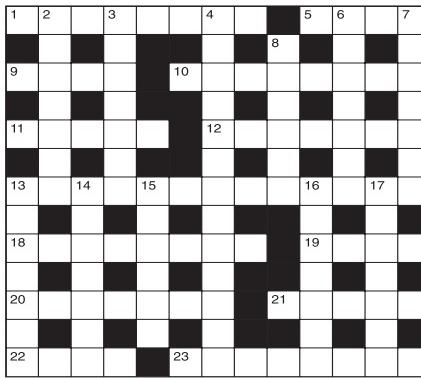
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

1. Sounds like a narrow channel without curves (8)
2. Twist - or it's no change (7)
3. To decide how old a person is - that's meant (7)
4. Not bound to be without charge (4)
5. Replacement footballer to command group (8)
6. I'd come back with transport for this piece of furniture (9)
7. Remove what was once a religious article (7)
8. They have a stirring influence beneath the surface (13)
9. How large towns are populated? Hardly! (8)
10. A good deal of money on the cards (11)
11. A place from which to direct what précis writers do (7)
12. Clean up the lottery (5)
13. They prepare the ground for producing steering devices (7)
14. Book coming my way? (4)
15. Star skater is out of place here (8)

Down

1. A second draft is made when the warden returns north (7)
2. The sea-trip could be ruined by them (7)
3. Kind of board for securing bricks (6)
4. In a high position to begin with, he's only just made good (7)
5. Drawing a grid differently before morning (7)
6. Go back to do some more sowing, we hear (6)
7. Authorise me to return to governing office (7)
8. Small flute (7)
9. Trying (7)
10. Permanent rule (8,5)
11. Droll (5)
12. Protection (7)
13. Make-shift (5,3,5)
14. Remainder (7)
15. Let loose (7)
16. Detesting (6)
17. Plunder (7)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Depart; 4 Paddle; 9 Paying through; 10 Thirsty; 11 Idler; 12 Agate; 14 Pests; 18 Alone; 19 Cabinet; 21 Primogeniture; 22 Either; 23 Blades. Down: 1 Deposits; 2 Physiognomist; 3 Rungs; 5 Airline; 6 Double-tongued; 7 Exhort; 8 Stays; 13 The nose; 15 Sample; 16 Screw; 17 Stress; 20 Brill. QUICK - Across: 1 Repast; 4 Danger; 9 Circumference; 10 Precede; 11 Nurse; 12 Edict; 14 Dealt; 18 Occur; 18 Lucerne; 21 Filing cabinet; 22 Direct; 23 Invoke. Down: 1 Recipe; 2 Perpendicular; 3 Sausage; 5 Arrange; 6 General Franco; 7 Reeled; 8 Offer; 13 Chronic; 15 Doffed; 16 Slack; 17 Gentle; 20 Cabin.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

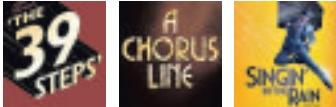
LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

9	4	5	8	7	2	6	3	1
6	2	8	9	1	3	7	4	5
1	3	7	6	5	4	2	9	8
7	1	9	8	3	5	6	0	2
3	5	9	7	4	6	8	1	2
4	8	6	1	2	9	5	7	3
8	9	4	2	6	1	3	5	7
5	6	1	3	8	7	9	2	4
2	7	3	4	9	5	1	6	8

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DARBY ROAD

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WOLVERHAMPTON SHAYLOR GROVE

- Two bed semi detached property
- Fully redecorated / new carpets
- Bathroom with shower and bath throughout
- Fully fitted kitchen with new
- Central heating and double glazing

£475 PCM

BILSTON BRADLEY LANE

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating throughout
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted Kitchen with appliances
- Central heating and double glazing
- Bathroom with shower
- Garage and off road parking

£475 PCM

BILSTON AMBLESIDE CLOSE

- Modernised town house
- One bedroom
- Luxuriously appointed lounge
- Parking
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Bathroom with electric shower
- Fore garden
- Central heating

£435 PCM

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Distinctive homes for the growing families

BLOOR Homes' distinctive Willow Croft development in Aldridge is set to be the perfect place for families looking to enjoy a location that offers the convenience of town with the peace and quiet of the countryside.

The development of four and five bed roomed detached homes, designed to distinguish Bloor, offer buyers a range of accommodation specifically tailored to the needs of a modern, busy family.

And now, would-be buyers can view one of the home styles, as the showhome has just become available to view.

Contemporary

The luxurious five bed roomed Diamond Showhome has double garage, private study and dual en-suites.

All homes feature large bay windows and French doors to ensure their spacious interiors are flooded with natural light and a choice of high quality, contemporary designed kitchens and bathroom fittings comes as standard.

In fact, visitors to the Willow Croft development, situated within easy access of Birmingham International Airport and the M6, can visit the new Diamond Showhome to get a first hand impression of what makes Bloor one of the largest privately owned housebuilding groups in the UK.

Prices at Willow Croft start from just £244,950 for the four-bedroom detached Opal with single garage.

Willow Croft, Gorsey Way, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0EQ. Tel 07752 667 397.

Showhome open Thursday to Monday, 10.00am-5.00pm.

For more details email to willowcroft@bloorhomes.com or book your viewing online at www.bloorhomes.com



Bloor Homes are built to accommodate the needs of modern family life



Large windows and French doors ensure the spacious interiors at Willow Croft are flooded with natural lighting

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Just four luxury homes make up the exclusive Walton Homes development in Kingsbury

Evergreens nearly ready

WALTON Homes' latest housing development, Evergreens in Kingsbury, is 90 per cent complete with the developer putting the finishing touches to these executive homes.

Located on Trinity Road, the intimate development – consisting of just four luxury properties – presents a range of new architectural designs and high-quality finishes.

In-keeping with the attractive village surroundings, each property boasts its own personal name, such as Yewtree House, Orchard House and Evergreen House.

All the homes at Evergreens have now been released for sale, with prices starting from £350,000 for a spacious four bedroom property and £395,000 for an exclusive five bedroom home. Each property boasts landscaped front and rear gardens and detached garages, along with large living and kitchen areas, and an additional reception room – ideal for use as a study or the kids' playroom.

Nigel Deekes, partner at Acres estate agents, Four Oaks, said: "Evergreens is a small, select development in a pleasant village setting, whilst still benefitting from good road links to the M42 and popular out-of-town shopping centres nearby."

"Offering four substantial homes, the well-designed development perfectly fulfils

the needs of growing families. Each property has been built to an excellent standard, boasting careful attention to detail, particularly on those finishing touches which really add value and convenience to modern family living."

Evergreens has good road links to Tamworth and Lichfield, and the A4097 Kingsbury Road provides access to the M6 toll road and M42.

Helen Rollason, sales manager at Walton Homes added: "People are increasingly turned-off by large uniform estates that lack space and individuality; the homes at Evergreens are perfect for people who are looking for a unique new-build property."

"Each property comes complete with luxury fixtures and fittings, including Symphony kitchens and contemporary bathrooms equipped with Porcelanosa sanitaryware. Those people who reserve before the end of January could have moved into their new dream home in time to see the daffodils come out!"

For further information on Evergreens, visit Acres estate agents in Four Oaks, or the Millfields marketing suite, open from 11am to 5pm Thursday-Monday, at Brookside Way, Wilmecote, Tamworth. Call 0121 323 3088, or log onto www.waltonhomes.co.uk

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Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA

LOT 1
Flat 2, 131 Glascole Road, Tamworth
Viewings: 25th January and 1st February at 11.30am

Situated close to Tamworth town centre this first floor flat has gas central heating and double glazing and would make an ideal investor purchase. Briefly comprising: Communal Entrance, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom & Utility Area. Energy Rating G.
GUIDE PRICE £35,000- £45,000

LOT 2
7 Junction Road, Stourbridge
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers.

Recently renovated detached family home situated in a sought after residential area with gas fired central heating and double glazing, the property comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Guest Cloakroom, Extended Full Width Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Street Parking, Fore and Attractive Rear Gardens. Energy Rating D.
GUIDE PRICE £125,000- £135,000

LOT 3
56 Tunnel Street, Bilston
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers

A detached family residence ideal for an investor benefitting from gas central heating and double glazing comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Extended Dining Room, Kitchen, W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Detached Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens. Viewing by appointment. Energy Rating D.
GUIDE PRICE £110,000-£130,000

LOT 4
91 Kenyon Forge, Birmingham
Viewing: 25th January & 1st February at 11.00am

Top floor one bedroom apartment located in a new development situated in the Jewellery Quarter. Walking distance to St Paul's Square, Snow Hill Station and tram stop. Comprises hallway, open plan kitchen / lounge / dining area, bedroom and bathroom. Early viewing is recommended on this courtyard facing apartment. Energy Rating C.
GUIDE PRICE £60,000- £70,000

LOT 5
4 Relay House, Wednesbury
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers

A prestigious two storey office building, situated on an ideal and convenient corner plot, located at the junction of Under High Street and Westgate Lane to the west of the M6. The property lends itself to various redevelopment opportunities, the Ground Floor retail sales suite has A3 Planning Consent for a 2 Bed Apartment and Office Suite and Residential Planning Consent (DC/12/0886) for conversion to 6 Apartments with the addition of a third floor provides a further 4 apartments. Energy Rating G.
GUIDE PRICE £130,000- £150,000

LOT 6
38 Norman Road, Northfield
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers

A particularly spacious traditional property situated in a highly popular residential road in need of considerable modernisation but retaining many original features and offering tremendous potential to the discerning purchaser. Having mostly gas central heating and double glazing, the accommodation includes: Vestibule, Impressive Reception Hall with Minton tiled floor, Downstairs W.C., Cellar Lounge with solid fuel stove and large Veranda off, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Side Veranda with Outhouse. Three Bedrooms to the first floor and Bathroom, Three Further Bedrooms to the Second Floor, Impressive Rear Garden, Fore Garden with parking. Energy Rating F.
GUIDE PRICE £190,000- £210,000

LOT 7
20 Orchard Grove, Walsall
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers

This traditionally styled semi-detached residence is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac within a short distance of Aldridge village centre. Enjoying the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing the property has been extended at ground and second floor levels and now offers spacious living accommodation which would make an ideal purchase for a young family or investor. The accommodation comprises: Open Plan Lounge Area, Utility, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Downstairs W.C., Shower Room/Guest W.C., Games Room/Bedroom Four, Three Bedrooms, Attic Room with En-Suite Shower Room, Fore and Rear Gardens. Energy Rating D.
GUIDE PRICE £150,000- £170,000

LOT 8
92 Kenyon Forge, Birmingham
Viewing: 25th January & 1st February at 11.00am

Top floor one bedroom apartment located in a new development situated in the Jewellery Quarter. Walking distance to St Paul's Square, Snow Hill Station and tram stop. Comprises hallway, open plan kitchen / lounge / dining area, bedroom and bathroom. Early viewing is recommended on this courtyard facing apartment.
GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£70,000

LOT 9
36 Circuit Close, Willenhall
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers

Purpose built first floor studio flat set in a popular residential development being offered for sale as an investment. Currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy at £250.00 PCM. Energy Rating D.
GUIDE PRICE £20,000-£25,000

LOT 10
33 Daw End, Rushall
Viewing: 28th January & 2nd February at 12.30pm

Delightfully situated Victorian end terraced property in need of some improvement and modernisation making an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. Located between Rushall and Aldridge the property comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Loft Room & Enclosed Rear Garden. Energy Rating F.
GUIDE PRICE £65,000-£75,000

LOT 11
68 Stockwell Road, Handsworth
Viewing: 28th January & 2nd February at 11.30am

In need of total modernisation and improvement, this Victorian mid terraced property is situated in a sought after residential area and would make an ideal purchase for a builder or investor. Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens. Energy Rating E.
GUIDE PRICE £50,000 PLUS

LOT 12
95 Princes Avenue, Walsall
Viewing: Strictly by appointment through the Auctioneers

Situated close to Walsall Town Centre in a popular residential area, this traditionally styled semi-detached property has gas fired central heating and double glazing and offers scope for further improvement. The property comprises: Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens. Energy Rating E.
GUIDE PRICE £120,000- £140,000



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£450 PCM



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**NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL
ESSINGTON ROAD**

- Brand new development of two detached bungalows
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious living room & dining area
- Double glazed windows

£169,995 ONLY ONE REMAINING



**WEDNESFIELD
ELLARDS DRIVE**

- Beautifully presented detached property
- Fitted kitchen with oven & dishwasher
- Dishwasher & storage in separate block
- Enclosed rear garden
- Viewing essential to appreciate

£157,500



**SHORT HEATH
HUNTS LANE**

- Superbly presented detached property
- Three good size bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Well appointed dining kitchen
- Luxury bathroom

£169,950 MUST BE VIEWED



**SUMMER HAYES
FENN RISE**

- Spacious link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms & dressing room
- Majority triple glazing, gas central heating

£164,950



**SNEYD PARK
CEDAR PARK ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed

£139,950



**NEW INVENTION
GLAMIS ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms

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**COPPIE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE**

- Extended end town house
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority double glazed windows
- Fitted dining kitchen with oven & hob
- Utility room and downstairs wc
- Garage & concrete print driveway
- Energy Rating 'D'

£140,000, NOW £134,000 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD**

- Modern End Town House
- Two bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen
- Gas central heating

£125,000



**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Modern style mid town house
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen

£119,950



**COPPIE FARM
HIGHMOOR CLOSE**

- Modern style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

£118,000, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



**SHORT HEATH
TENNYSON ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed improved traditional style end town house
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed windows, gas central heating

£109,500, VIEWING RECOMMENDED



**BENTLEY
WREXHAM AVENUE**

- Extended traditional style semi detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Double glazed windows

£109,950, NOW £107,000 NO CHAIN



**WEDNESFIELD
HAWTHORNE ROAD**

- Modern style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Part double glazing
- Potential to improve and/or re-model

£104,995 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £104,995



**DARLASTON
MEMORY LANE**

- Well presented modern style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Dining kitchen
- Refitted bathroom

£99,950



**WEDNESFIELD
BRINDLEY AVENUE**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed

£99,950, NOW £97,500



**WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- Excellent modern style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed

£96,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £96,000



**NEW INVENTION
TAVERNS CLOSE**

- Pleasant one bedroom modern style semi
- En-suite bathroom with shower
- Lounge & separate dining/sun room
- Fitted kitchen inc oven & hob

£87,950 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
LISTER STREET**

- Three bedroom mid terraced property
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Two reception rooms

£84,950, NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
ERNEST CLARKE CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed mid terrace property
- Off road parking
- Gas central heating
- Two reception rooms

£84,950, NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
BILSTON LANE**

- Spacious and terraced property
- Two double bedrooms
- Gated garden to front and rear
- Energy Rating 'C'

£80,000 IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE



**WALSALL
MOORSIDE GARDENS**

- Pleasant spacious first floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- 14ft lounge

£78,950 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
BENTLEY LANE**

- Superb well appointed five bedroom detached family residence
- Spacious lounge, dining room
- Impressive breakfast kitchen
- Utility & guest wc • En-suite shower room

£200,000

- Refitted family shower room
- Refitted family bathroom
- Double glazing, gas central heating
- Pleasant rear garden, driveway
- Energy Rating C

**WILLENHALL
REGENT STREET**

- Period and terrace property
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and breakfast
- Utility / utility
- Two bedrooms, one with en-suite • Energy Rating E

£87,000 NO CHAIN

- Extended semi detached property
- Three 1st floor bedrooms
- Ground floor extended bedroom four
- 19ft through lounge
- Downstairs cloakroom with wc

£125,000



**WILLENHALL
VICTORIA COURT, GRANVILLE STREET**

- Superbly appointed ground floor corner apartment
- Two bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobes
- Open plan lounge/dining kitchen
- Spacious bathroom

£87,500 NO CHAIN

- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Energy Rating C'

**WILLENHALL
GOUGH STREET**

- Well maintained & pleasantly presented semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Refitted dining kitchen

£85,000 NO CHAIN

- Bathroom
- Double glazing, gas central heating
- Driveway with ample parking
- Large side/side garden
- Energy Rating E'

**WOLVERHAMPTON
WILLENHALL ROAD**

- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Gardens to front & rear
- Energy Rating D'

£77,500 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
COTSWOLD GROVE**

- Ground floor flat in popular location
- Over 55's development
- Lounge, Kitchen
- One bedroom
- Bathroom

- Double glazing, storage heating
- No chain
- Energy Rating E'

£49,950 for 70% shared ownership



**SHORT HEATH
POOLES LANE**

- Much improved three bedroom detached bungalow
- Lounge
- Superb breakfast kitchen, Utility
- Double glazing, gas central heating

£195,000

- Spacious bathroom • Garage & driveway
- Four bedrooms, three with fitted wardrobes
- Energy Rating E'

£175,000

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BUTTERMERE GROVE**

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- Two reception rooms
- Office/occasional bedroom 6
- Conservatory

WAS £289,950, NOW £279,950 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL

- Breakfast kitchen
- En-suite shower room
- Excellent fitted bathroom
- Energy Rating C



**WILLENHALL
ALTON AVENUE**

- Three bedroom double fronted traditional style semi detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted breakfast kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility room & downstairs w.c., fitted shower room

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £148,995 NO CHAIN

- Gas central heating & UPVC double glazed windows
- Garage & concrete print driveway
- Generous lawned rear garden
- Energy Rating D'



**WOLVERHAMPTON
ACKLETON GARDENS**

- Much improved semi detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Spacious lounge

WAS £114,950, NOW £109,950 NO CHAIN

- Refitted bathroom
- Off road parking
- Gas central heating, double glazing
- Energy Rating D'

**HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL
FAWLTY CLOSE**

- Pleasant improved modern style semi
- Fitted bathroom with shower

- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace

£103,000

- Garage with double doors to the front
- Attractive enclosed rear garden
- Energy Rating C'

£86,000 NO CHAIN

**WILLENHALL
CLOTHIER STREET**

- Kitchen
- Gas central heating
- Part UPVC double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase
- Energy Rating E'

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A converted 6bed bungalow 1 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen with cooker 2 luxury bathrooms both with showers Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing Detached double garage and conservatory 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A superb 3bed detached property 2 Spacious reception rooms Fitted kitchen with gas cooker Upstairs family bathroom and downstairs WC Gas central heating and Double glazing Fully enclosed rear garden, viewing recommended 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A superb 4bed semi detached 2 Spacious reception rooms Traditional kitchen with cooker Upstairs family bathroom with shower Gas central heating and Double glazing Driveway for 2 cars and utility area 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3bed semi detached property 1 Spacious reception room A good size modern fitted kitchen A pleasant upstairs family bathroom Gas central heating throughout Dss accepted with a guarantor 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3bed spacious mid-terrace 2 Spacious reception rooms A modern fitted kitchen Superb upstairs family bathroom Gas central heating and Double glazing Fully enclosed rear garden 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2bed mid terrace 2 Spacious reception rooms Superb kitchen with cooker Downstairs family bathroom Gas central heating and double glazing Dss Accepted 	
Victor Street	£350 pcm	Ablewell Street	£325 pcm	Penry Road	£695 pcm	Mellish Park, Walsall	£675cm	Asterway, Tamebridge	£650 pcm	Tasker Street, Walsall	£600 pcm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bed ground floor flat Spacious lounge area Large Fitted kitchen Good sized bathroom with shower Gas central heating/Double glazing Dss accepted with guarantor 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pleasant 1 bed apartment Spacious lounge/diner Fitted kitchen with electric cooker Pleasant family bathroom Secure key code entrance Town centre location 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A splendid 3 bed detached property 2 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Recently installed bathroom Separate WC and shower room Garage, Driveway and rear garden 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A luxury 2 bed 2nd floor apartment Open planned lounge/kitchen area Modern kitchen with appliances Family bathroom, Master en-suite and WC Gouble Glazing and secure Parking 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Bed modern detached property Spacious open plan lounge/dining Fitted Kitchen Family bathroom,Master en-suite and WC Gas central heating and Double glazing Access to garage 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 double bedroom terraced property Consists of 2 large reception rooms Fitted kitchen with units Downstairs family bathroom Gas central heating and double glazing DSS accepted and a large rear garden 	
Laburnham Road	£550 pcm	Bath Road	£525 pcm	Addenbrooke Street,	£500 pcm	Coalway Road	£500 pcm	Addenbrooke Street,	£500 pcm	South Street	£495 pcm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3 bed semi detached property 1 spacious reception room Modern kitchen/diner with cooker Pleasant upstairs bathroom with shower Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing Rear garden 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A traditional 3 bed mid terrace 2 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Downstairs family bathroom Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A spacious 3 bed end terrace property Spacious front and rear reception rooms Large modern fitted kitchen Downstairs family bathroom Gas central heating and Double glazing DSS accepted and Refurbished 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3 bed semi detached property 2 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Upstairs bathroom with shower Side utility and downstairs WC Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A spacious 3 bed end terraced property 2 spacious reception rooms front and rear Modern fitted kitchen Downstairs family bathroom Gas central heating and double glazing throughout Dss accepted and Refurbished throughout 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A superb 3bed mid terrace 1 Spacious reception room Good size fitted kitchen with cooker Upstairs family bathroom downstairs WC Gas central heating and Double glazing Low maintenance rear garden 	
Pleck Road, Pleck	£495 pcm	Abbey Square, Bloxwich	£495 pcm	Kingsley Street	£475 pcm	Scarborough Road, Pleck	£475 pcm	Scarborough Road	£475 pcm	Highgate Road	£450 pcm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A re-furbished 3 bed mid terrace 2 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Downstairs bathroom with shower Gas Central heating and Double Glazing Rear garden DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3 bed mid terrace property 1 spacious reception room Fitted family kitchen/diner Upstairs bathroom with separate WC Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3 bed mid terrace property 1 spacious through lounge Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Downstairs family bathroom Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A traditional 3 bed mid terrace 2 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Downstairs family bathroom Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A recently re-furbished 2 bed mid terrace 2 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Upstairs bathroom with separate shower Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large modern kitchen/Diner Good sized living room 2 Double bedrooms Stylish contemporary bathroom Gas central heating throughout 	
Dora Street	£450 pcm	Walstead Road	£430 pcm	Darlaston Road	£395 pcm	Bloxwich Road, Leamore	£375 pcm	Church Street, Darlaston	£360 pcm	Austin House, Netherton	£325 pcm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A traditional 3 bed mid terrace property Spacious through lounge Modern fitted kitchen Bathroom with shower over the bath Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 1st floor 2 bed apartment 1 spacious reception room Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Good size family bathroom with shower Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing Parking space DSS accepted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A traditional 3 bed end terrace property 2 spacious reception rooms Modern fitted kitchen Downstairs family bathroom Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing DSS accepted, rent in arrears for HB 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top floor studio apartment Modern fitted bathroom with shower Spacious living area Modern Fitted kitchen units Dss accepted with guarantor Rent accepted in arrears for HB 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 1 bed 1st floor apartment Good size reception room Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Good size bathroom Gas central heating, DSS accepted Choice of 2 apartments 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bed 1st floor apartment Spacious reception room Modern fitted kitchen with cooker A pleasant bathroom with white suite Double glazing throughout Rear garden 	



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• Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
• Sorry No DHSS Pets or Smokers

£525 PCM



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Springfields
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• New Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
• D.Glazing/ G.C.Heating●Rear Garden
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£525 PCM



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Eagleworks Drive
• Two Bedroom Apartment
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• Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
• Bathroom●D.Glazing & Gas Heating
• Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers.

£525 PCM



Walsall
Harness Close
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
• Gardens●No Pets or Smokers
• Garage & Off Road Parking
• D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

£525 PCM



Walsall
Stafford Street
• Three Bedroom Detached
• Two Reception Rooms
• Kitchen & Bathroom
• Garage
• DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Bloxwich
Booth Street
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Lounge●Kitchen●Cloakroom W.C.
• Kitchen & Bathroom
• Garage & Off Road Parking
• DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Walsall
Tanners Court
• Two bedroom apartments
• Lounge●Kitchen
• Bathroom
• Master Bedroom with Ensuite
• Sorry No DHSS

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Walsall
Mellish Court
• Two Bedroom Top Floor Flat
• Lounge with Laminate Flooring
• Kitchen, Bathroom & Entrance Hallway
• Garage & Allocated Parking Space
• Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM



Walsall
Blackthorne Road
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
• Part Central Heated
• Double Glazing●Off Road Parking
• Front & Rear Gardens●Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM



Bloxwich
Nursery Road
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
• Downstairs W.C.
• Front and Rear Gardens
• Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



Bloxwich
Blaken Lane
• Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Lounge●Kitchen●Reception Rooms
• Ground Floor Bathroom
• Further Room with W.C & Wash Basin
• Gardens●DHSS Considered

£475 PCM



Willenhall
Brereton Road
• Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Lounge●Kitchen●Dining Room
• Double Glazing
• Front Garden with Driveway
• Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



Bloxwich
Chepstow Way
• Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Lounge●Kitchen●Dining Room
• Double Glazing●Central Heating
• Front & Rear Gardens
• DHSS Accepted

£460 PCM



Bloxwich
Foster Street
• Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Lounge●Kitchen●Dining Room
• Reception Hallway
• Off Road Parking
• DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Willenhall
Haley Street
• Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Large Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
• Family Bathroom●Rear Garden
• D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£450 PCM



Walsall
Cairns Street
• Two Bed Refurbished Property
• Through Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom
• DHSS Accepted

£430 PCM



Bloxwich
Signal Grove
• Two Bedroom Apartment
• Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
• Double Glazing●Electric Heating
• Communal Grounds●Allocated Parking
• DHSS Accepted

£430 PCM



Walsall
Walker Road
• Two Bedroom Apartments
• Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
• Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing
• DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Walsall
Kent Street
• Three Bed Terrace
• Two Reception Rooms
• Kitchen●Bathroom
• Rear Garden●DHSS Accepted
• Sorry no Pets or Smokers

£425 PCM



Walsall
Cairns Street
• Two Bedroom Terrace
• Being Refurbished throughout
• Kitchen●Family Bathroom
• Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
• Rear Garden●DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Bloxwich
Green Lane
• Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
• Lounge with Storage/Cloak Cupboard
• Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
• Shared Communal Gardens
• Off Road Parking

£415 PCM



Bloxwich
Marton Court
• One & Bed Apartment
• Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom
• Courtyard parking
• DHSS Accepted

From £400 PCM



Bloxwich
Harrison Street
• Two Bedroom Flats
• Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
• Double Glazing
• Electric Heating
• DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



Bloxwich
High Street
• One Bedroom Flat
• Large Lounge●Kitchen
• Large Bathroom
• Double Glazing●Electric Heating
• Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



Bloxwich
High Street
• Two Bedroom Flat
• Bloxwich High St Location
• Large Kitchen●Bathroom
• Double Glazing●Electric Heating
• Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



Walsall
Crown Lofts
• Modern Studio Flat
• Fitted Kitchen
• Shower Room
• Hanging Laundry
• Sorry No DHSS

£375 PCM



Bloxwich
Field Road
• One Bedroom Flat
• Kitchen●Bathroom
• Central Heating
• Double Glazing
• Sorry No DHSS

£375 PCM



Bloxwich
High Street
• Two Bedroom Flat
• Lounge●Shower Room
• Kitchen●Electric Heating
• Double Glazing●Parking Space To Rear
• DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Willenhall
Market Place
• Two Bedroom Flats
• Lounge●Modern Fitted Kitchen
• Modern Bathroom
• Gas Central Heating
• DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Bloxwich
Parker Street
• One & Bed Flats
• Lounge●Kitchen
• Bathroom
• Central Heating
• Shower Room
• DHSS Accepted

£370 PCM



Walsall
Moat Road
• One & Bed Flat above retail premises
• Lounge●Kitchen
• Bathroom
• Central Heating
• Shower Room
• DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM



Bloxwich
Barracks Lane
• One Bedroom Flat
• Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
• Rear Garden
• Cul-de-Sac Location
• DHSS Accepted

£300 PCM



Walsall
Hardman Close
• Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
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• Rear Garden
• Cul-de-Sac Location
• DHSS Accepted

£300 PCM

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£90,000

An immaculately presented three bedroom terraced home situated close to Darlaston Town Centre. Ideal first time buy. Viewing is essential.

Aston Road



£90,000

An extended three bedroom semi detached home offering exceptionally spacious living space. Recently re-fitted internally with new carpets.

Lime Avenue



£85,000

A mid terrace property benefitting from central heating, where specified, and garden. An ideal first time purchase. Viewing is recommended.

Chiltern Drive



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A three bedroom semi-detached home benefitting from integral garage. In need of modernisation. No upward chain.

Brereton Road



£85,000

An extended two/three bedroom semi-detached home situated on the popular "Forest Gate" development.

Pinson Road



£80,000

A three bedroom end terrace home situated conveniently for Willenhall Town Centre. Benefiting from a downstairs WC.

MOTORING

NEWS AND REVIEWS

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Kia Optima is one of a kind in big business saloon stakes

SHOULD
you be

By Ian Donald

captivated by the
sculpted lines of
Kia's new big



saloon you ought to find the buying process pleasantly simple.

For starters, there's just one engine on offer – a fairly modest diesel – and one body shape – a saloon, with no talk of hatch or estate on the horizon.

So you'll just have to concentrate on colour and fittings and perhaps go for the auto over a conventional gearchange.

And that's it, although you might not want to hang around, Kia has only modest sales targets for the Optima and might be surprised at the interest this handsome machine generates.

It's a big car, longer even than Ford's Galaxy and to my eyes a much more handsome design, a shape overseen by the man who spent some years drawing new Audis for a living before being tempted away to inject style into Kias from Korea.

The Optima marks the completion of part one of the project that has seen eight new cars in seven years and turned Kia from a company that sold cars because they were cheap to ones that represent good value – an important difference.

Good value (think Marks & Spencer)

means we'll pay a bit more for something that looks good; making us feel better and the retailer a little bit better off.

Most Optimas will end up as company cars and aren't going to be upstaged in the company car park in a sea of Galaxies and Insignias, especially when the Kia's keeper starts describing what came as standard with the car.

All Optimas share the same engine but come with a choice of four grades. The entry level Optima 1 (see, I said it was simple) costs £19,595 and has the business car essentials of air con, electric windows, Bluetooth, alloys and adjustable lumbar support for the driver – along with a huge boot easily made bigger still by folding the rear seats.

Next up is the Optima 2 in Luxe or Tech guise, each costing the same £21,695. Both have dual zone air conditioning, heated front seats (with memory and electric adjustment for the driver), reversing sensors and a more easily read instrument panel.

The Luxe then adds part leather seats, sunroof, iPod cable, big 18 inch alloy wheels and a reversing camera. Opt for the Tech and you'll find a 12 speaker

sound system, smaller alloys and touch screen satellite navigation.

The Tech looks the bargain buy of the range, which is topped by the £24,495 Optima 3 which adds xenon headlights, full leather upholstery . . . even an automatic parking system, heated rear seats and the ability of the hard-pressed driver to cool his seat at the push of a button.

So it looks good (inside and out) and comes with lots of kit, but how does this promising newcomer drive?

Pretty well is the quick answer. The 1.7 litre, 134bhp diesel engine is vocal when cold but decently subdued once warmed through and provides enough performance to keep a busy company driver on schedule.

An automatic model was less impressive, adding vibrations through the floor and keeping the revs annoyingly high when stopped at the lights and not looking worth the £1,500 charged for dispensing with a clutch pedal.

The manual gearchange 2 Luxe on test was much more refined, with a ride that felt busy on bad roads but calmed down at a business-like cruise on the motorway.

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CHRONICLE

MOTORING Powered by

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Popular choice – the Audi A1 1.2TFSI SE is available at £199 advance payment through Motability

Time to get moving

IT'S a new year and Motability, the leading car scheme for disabled people, has unveiled a great range of 2,000 cars in its New Year price list.

Disabled motorists can now choose from over 300 cars at no Advance Payment, meaning there's no upfront additional cost when leasing a reliable new car through Motability.

The iconic MINI 1.6 One, compact Toyota Yaris 1.33VVT-i TR and nippy Kia Venga 1.6 2 are all currently available with no Advance Payment.

While for those that require more room, larger vehicles such as the spacious Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 LT, the popular Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Exclusive and the stylish Ford Focus 1.6 125 Zetec are also all available with no Advance Payment.

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Dis-

ability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement can simply exchange this weekly payment – currently around £50 a week – for a new car through Motability. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are also included.

Punchy

Other vehicles available with no Advance Payment include the punchy Peugeot 308 HDi 92 Active and the reliable Hyundai i20 1.4 CRDi Comfort.

A wide range of greener vehicles with emissions of 120 grams of CO₂ per km or less, are available including the sporty SEAT Leon 1.6TDI Ecomotive S Copa and the economical SKODA Fabia 1.2TDI GreenLine II. Both are available with no Advance Payment.

Mike Betts, chief executive, Motability Operations explains: "This is our first Price Guide following the streamlining of the Scheme's range which was announced in October 2011. Despite

the reduction in the size of the list, the most popular cars chosen by Motability customers, including automatics, estates and diesels continue to be available and there are hundreds of cars that have no Advance Payment."

From January 2012, the core range of vehicles from Motability all have an Advance Payment of £2,000 or below, together with diesel, estate and automatic versions of those models.

This means that the most popular cars continue to be offered, such as the "WHATCAR? of the Year 2011" – the Audi A1 1.2TFSI SE – available at £199 Advance Payment. Other models, such as the popular Volkswagen Golf 1.2TSI 105 S, with air conditioning, and the spacious Honda New Civic 1.4i-VTEC SE are both available at £299 Advance Payment.

• For more information visit the car search tool at motability.co.uk or call 0800 093 1000.

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Forester a worthy winner of accolade

IT really didn't come as any surprise to me that the recently revamped Subaru Forester was named 'Junior Crossover of the Year' by specialist off-roading magazine, Total 4x4.

The go-anywhere, family friendly Forester, which is now available with a choice of extensively revised petrol and diesel Boxer engines, faced competition from the likes of a Toyota Urban Cruiser, Suzuki SX4 and Skoda Octavia Scout.

However, thanks to its sure-footed Symmetrical All-Wheel-Drive configuration, car-like driving dynamics and exceptional practicality, judges singled out the Japanese crossover for the highest praise.

The panel of experts at Total 4x4 magazine said of the Forester: "Typically of Subaru, the Forester does very good things without making a fuss of it. The combination it offers of quality, value, practical usability and driving talent makes it very hard indeed to beat."

"The Forester has always been a star in its own corner of the market, and heavily revised petrol and diesel engines means it now shines brighter than ever."

The 2.0-litre Boxer diesel Forester range, which returns an impressive 47.9 mpg combined, starts at £23,070 (on-the-road) for the entry-level 2.0D X, rising to £25,070 for the 2.0D XC, and £29,070 for the range-topping 2.0D XS NavPlus.

Automatic

Customers preferring petrol power have a choice of two models – the Forester 2.0X and 2.0XS, costing £21,370 and £25,370 respectively in manual guise. Automatic versions are available at a £1,000 premium.

Revisions to the 2.0-litre petrol model see its average economy go up from 32.8mpg to 37.7mpg. CO2 emissions reduced from 199g/km to 175g/km, which is enough to put the new Forester five company car tax bands lower than its predecessor.

The changes contribute to upping fuel economy from 44.8mpg to 47.9mpg and CO2 from 167g/km to 155g/km, dropping the car two tax bands.

The Forester also got some minimal styling tweaks including changes to the front grille and the instruments also see a change.

I recently drove the diesel and that's why I was not surprised at the award. This is a car perfectly

**By Sharon
Walters**

suit to my needs, living down a dirt track and spending much of my motoring on B roads in Shropshire complete with floods and (usually!) icy roads.

The permanent four-wheel drive is a positive boon helping boost traction and coupled with good suspension, there's any feeling from the bumps on my dirt track or many of those B roads.

This engine is smooth in all respects with little noise or vibration inside and in addition there's little wind or road noise.

Inside it's not luxurious, but then I didn't expect it to be, but it had everything I needed with sound build quality and the instruments were well laid out.

You get excellent all-round vision with plenty of head and legroom in front and in the back with a wide range of seat and steering wheel adjustment to help drivers of different sizes get comfortable.

Quality

There's a decent-sized boot and extending it is easy, as I found out when moving a desk, because the rear seats are spring-loaded, released just by levers.

Specification across the range is good and includes self-levelling rear suspension, climate control, heated front seats and a quality sound system.

All Foresters come with a three-year or 60,000-mile warranty plus 12-year anti-corrosion cover and three-year paintwork warranty.

This is in addition to three years membership of Subaru Assistance – a comprehensive home and roadside repair and recovery package throughout the UK and Europe, administered by Mondial Assistance.

Service intervals are 12,000 miles or one year – whichever arrives first.



The revised Forester comes with a range of Boxer engines and offers great versatility



The instruments are well-laid out and the vision is excellent

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Baxendale is happy to stay under the radar

JAMES BAXENDALE insists Walsall are happy to slip under the radar as they close in on the play-offs.

The winger penned a new 18-month deal – joining Jake Jones who inked a contract until the end of the season – and is keen for the Saddlers to ignore play-off talk.

Walsall have won six of their last seven games to move 10th, within two points of the League One play-off spots ahead of Saturday's visit to fourth-bottom Colchester.

Yet the Saddlers only ended a 16-match winless run with a 1-0 victory over Colchester last month – and Baxendale wants their progress to remain undetected.

"We'll keep doing what we're good at and then who knows?" he said.

"We'll keep going on this run and people will talk about it but we'll just keep doing what we're doing."

"If people want to talk about us, then that's fine – but we just want to keep this run going as much as we can."

"We're on a good run and we're going to do everything we can to keep it going."

Good

"We never stopped believing and we kept to our principles. The boys work together and you can see when we do play well we're a good team."

The 20-year-old, who joined on a free from Doncaster in the summer, returned after two months without a start to score in the previous week's 3-1 win at Preston.

He helped Walsall end Bournemouth's 15-game unbeaten run with a 3-1 win on Saturday and hopes he has taken his chance.

He added: "You want to do well for yourself and want the team to win. I hadn't been involved as much as I'd like, but the boys had been playing well and I've been happy to be part of it."

"It's a team game and you've got to do everything you can do get back into the team. We're all champing at the bit to get into the team and hopefully I've taken my chance."

Winger Jones signed his deal and immediately joined Blue Square Premier side Lincoln on an initial month's loan.

The 19-year-old made eight appearances this season, including two against the Imps as they knocked Walsall out of the FA Cup.

ACTION HEART 5 'HEART RUN' ENTRY FORM Sunday, February 24, 2013

Name.....
Address.....

Estimated finish time.....
State whether runner or walker.....
Date of birth.....
Club (if any).....
Telephone No.....
Sex (M/F).....
Email address.....

I declare that I am medically fit to run and understand that I take part entirely at my own risk. I declare that I am an amateur as defined by the UKA. I agree to abide by the current laws and rules of competition of the UKA. I will be 15 or over on the day of the event.

Signed.....
(to be signed by parent/guardian if under 18)
Fee paid.....
Date.....

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RUNNERS who sign up for the Action Heart five-mile run can earn some goodies as well as get fit.

Sponsorship from adidas UK means there are rewards for bringing in sponsorship.

Runners raising more than £50 for the Action Heart charity get an adidas sweatshirt and those breaking the £100 mark land a pair of trainers.

The event is on Sunday, February 24 (9.30am) and both starts and finishes at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley.

This is the fourth week of the training programme, but don't worry if other commitments – and the weather – have prevented you from



going out. There is still plenty of time to catch up with the training schedule.

There are no entries on the day. Fill in the entry form, or download one from www.actionheartrunning.com

You can also enter online at www.runbritain.com

Cost is £11 for registered club runners and £13 for non-club

members. In return, you will receive your official race number and information. Sponsorship forms are automatically sent out with running numbers.

Now for the fourth week's training schedule which is only slightly increased from last week, giving those of you who have suffered a setback a chance to catch up, or get started.

Training: Week Four

Monday: Rest

Tuesday: Two-mile jog

Wednesday: 1.5-mile run

Thursday: Rest

Friday: Two-mile jog

Saturday: Rest

Sunday: Three-mile jog/walk

Boss says defeating Cherries is top result

BOSS Dean Smith hailed Walsall's stunning victory over Bournemouth as his best result after the Saddlers won the most bizarre penalty of the season.

The Saddlers sealed their fourth straight win with an impressive 3-1 success over the Cherries on Saturday.

Eunan O'Kane's handball – he flicked the ball up in the penalty area and caught it as it was still in play – crowned a madcap game.

Will Grigg's two penalties and Sam Mantom's strike ended Bournemouth's 15-game unbeaten League One run and lifted the Saddlers to 10th in League One.

And Smith reckons it ranks as one of the finest results in two years as a manager. He said: "It's one of the best results of my managerial career because of the run they are on, the players they have got and the spending power they have got."

"They are a good team; I know we've beaten them 3-1, but they are a very good team with very good players and they'll win lot more games this season."

Dominated

"To do the double over them proves we have a decent team."

"We dominated the first half, Adam Chambers and Sam Mantom are getting better and better in the middle but to a man they were excellent."

Febian Brandy was sent off while Bournemouth struck the woodwork twice between Jamie Paterson and the ball after Grigg was fouled – but referee Andy Davies had not blown for a free-kick.

The official was left with no alternative but to award the penalty, which Grigg duly converted for his 10th goal of the season.

Smith said: "They happen, usually on the training ground and not on the pitch."

"I thought it was a foul but they played on and it was unfortunate, their players must have thought it was a foul as well."

O'Kane also apologised to Bournemouth fans via Twitter. He tweeted: "I can only apologise for what happened! Thought I had heard a whistle so was trying to get the ball back to them to speed the game up!"

Double opportunity to shake off déjà vu

Walsall 3 Bournemouth 1

JUST six weeks ago, time looked like being blown on Walsall's season – but you should always play to the whistle.

They have gone from two points above the relegation zone to two points adrift of the play-offs, writes Nick Mashiter.

They recorded a fourth straight win with a 3-1 victory over Bournemouth in which Eunan O'Kane will struggle to live down a second-half gaffe which 'handed' Saddlers a second penalty and the points on Saturday.

Dean Smith joked he had seen it before – on the training ground – but O'Kane will suffer for weeks after casually picking up the ball in the area expecting the whistle as Will Grigg was tripped outside of the box.

It never came and Grigg's resulting penalty settled a game which included a red card for Febian Brandy, glaring misses and the woodwork struck three times.

Hailed

Victory completed a double over big-spending Bournemouth and ended their 15-match unbeaten run in the league.

Smith hailed it as one of his best and a performance befitting the occasion but Walsall will be acutely aware of what happened after their last victory over the Cherries.

A 16-match winless run followed Dean Court success and they are now in a similar position. In September, they were fifth and facing Leyton Orient and Carlisle. They lost both and fell apart.

Now, struggling Colchester and Oldham are next and 10th-placed Saddlers must again be favourites – a rare recent position – after four straight victories and six wins from seven games.

While they play it down, two wins would turn them into play-off contenders, even as outsiders.

Getting to 50 points remains the target; history dictates that. But why, after a barren two years, can't the club and its long-suffer-



No penalty this time as Will Grigg falls in contact with David James



Febian Brandy's afternoon comes to an early finish

ing fans dare to dream? Smith is right to dampen expectation, but while the Saddlers remain on form he will struggle to do it for long – such is football's hyperbole.

Nearly 20 points above the relegation zone almost renders talk of the drop meaningless and, after that, who wants to talk of or target mid-table consolidation?

That would have been the aim at the start of the season, but targets change and hitting 50 points will give a green light to charge.

Striker Will Grigg's form continues to inspire. The biggest criticism levelled at the 21-year-old is that, for all his graft, he fails to score enough. But after he netted his 10th goal of the season, that doubt is ebbing away.

An extra yard of pace and added strength and improved confidence has seen the Northern Ireland international begin to fulfil his potential.

He had no right to win the first penalty,

which he scored to put Walsall 2-0 up, after running onto his own flick, beating the Bournemouth backline and teasing a foul from David James in first-half stoppage time.

Before then only Tommy Elphick's outstretched boot denied him the opener – an honour which went to Sam Mantom when the 27th minute cross-shot dropped into the corner.

It confirmed the Saddlers' dominance, something which was only threatened when Brett Pitman crashed a header onto the bar seven minutes from the break.

But Walsall shrugged off the scare to go 2-0 up at half-time thanks to Grigg's persistence, even if his penalty lacked conviction.

Pitman's neat header made it 2-1 three minutes after the interval and brought back memories of last season's two-goal surrender to the Cherries. But those fears were

unfounded. Jamie Paterson hit the post before Bournemouth should have levelled when Ian McLoughlin spilled Josh McQuoid's cross and Wes Thomas struck the bar from two yards.

Walsall were rocking and Brandy, on a yellow, walked on 71 minutes after diving in on O'Kane when Mal Benning's free-kick was spilled by James.

Cue nerves, but when Grigg was fouled on the edge of the area and O'Kane picked the ball up, expecting a whistle which never came, the points were won.

Grigg converted the penalty and almost claimed a hat-trick when his volley drifted wide.

Bournemouth had been beaten by their own calamity, though. Walsall have been used to hanging on for the last whistle; now one which never came has given them the perfect platform to build from.

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Winger in new deal to remain at Walsall

WALSALL winger James Baxendale has signed a new contract that will tie him to the Banks's Stadium for the next 18 months.

The talented 20-year-old's previous terms were due to expire in the summer, but the Saddlers have acted quickly to secure the player for next season.

The young Yorkshireman went to the club after leaving Doncaster at the end of last season and came through the youth ranks at Leeds, also serving non-league Buxton and Hereford United on loan.

Baxendale has scored three goals in 23 appearances for Dean Smith's men over the course of this campaign and the manager believes he's a "great prospect".

Smith said: "James has displayed outstanding character. He's had a good run in the team and scored some impressive goals so far."

"He's a great personality and has a real zest for football. It's a pleasure to have him around the place and I am delighted that he has agreed this new deal, as he is a great prospect."

Baxendale has started the last two games but insists he won't rest on his laurels after extending his stay.

He said: "This is a good club and I am really enjoying my time here. I want to really kick on."

Ex-Lockman dies aged 48

WILLENHALL TOWN are mourning the death of former player Ian Wells.

He died on Saturday at the age of 48 and leaves two sons, Aidan and Sam.

Striker Ian and his brother David both played for the Lockmen, while Ian also appeared for Gresley Rovers, Chasetown, Marstons and Hereford United.

He was at Edgar Street between 1985 and 1987, making 71 appearances and scoring 19 times for the Bulls in all competitions.

His goals included one against Arsenal in the 1985 Milk (League) Cup and he also scored against his home town club Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Willenhall's joint manager Josh Skidmore said: "Ian was a great centre-forward, and was a big part of the successful Marstons side. He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with his family."



Martin Gethin, right, works to the body of Ben Murphy



Gethin celebrates his win with the title belt



Christopher Keane, right, stops Shane McPhilbin for the area title

Youthful athletics chances

THE race is on to discover a star athlete thanks to a new development programme.

Wolverhampton City Council has teamed up with Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club to stage the Junior Athletics Development Programme.

Training provided by qualified coaches over a five-week period at the end of February will see children aged seven to 14 take part in disciplines including sprints, hurdles, the high jump and hammer throw.

Those completing the course successfully get a year's free membership to Wolverhampton and Bilston AC.

The project is at Aldersley Leisure Village's indoor sports hall on Thursdays February 28 and March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 5pm-6pm.

Places for the full programme cost £17.50 and can be reserved by completing an application form at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/communitydevelopment

Wood try again in big Vase tie

WALSALL WOOD'S big home FA Vase tie against London side Hanworth Villa fell victim to the snow and ice on Saturday.

The teams take another crack at staging the tie this Saturday.

Cricket club AGM

RUSHALL Cricket Club's AGM is at the club house in Pelsall Lane tomorrow (7.30pm). All members are asked to attend, and new players are also invited. For details or queries, call Paul Hopkinson on 07976 621825.

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GETHIN TAKES TITLE ON HOME GROUND

MARTIN GETHIN was crowned the new British lightweight champion in front of a raucous home crowd at Walsall Town Hall while hometown compatriot Christopher Keane also won a title.

Gethin got the job done against Ben Murphy while Jason Welborn of Rowley Regis could not – halted in seven rounds by British welterweight champion Frankie Gavin.

Keane's hammering in three rounds of Shane McPhilbin, a former British cruiserweight champ, made him new area boss taking the vacant Midlands belt.

That was a bonus after Gethin pressure told on Hove's Murphy, an ex-British title challenger at light-welterweight, with a stoppage win in the ninth.

Gethin shook Murphy in the second with a right hook forcing his opponent back on his toes but then had to prove his own mettle as Murphy bounced out for the next session.

Advantage

Murphy's left and right hooks hit home but Gethin didn't flinch and his title lost heart, knowing he couldn't seriously hurt him.

In the sixth Gethin used his reach, exploiting a five-and-a-half-inch height advantage to pepper Murphy with the jab as he looked for openings.

That forced the finish in the ninth as Murphy was trapped and faced a barrage of shots as he tried to escape, forcing referee Marcus McDonnell to jump in.

Before that, Keane was up against ex-sparring partner McPhilbin. The two trained together before the Bulwell fighter won the British title.

Keane scented blood as he hurt McPhilbin with a left hook to the ribs, taking a lot to the end.

by Craig Birch

of wind out of the Nottingham man early on.

McPhilbin was floored in the third by a right uppercut to the jaw but gamely answered the count before visiting the canvas again, twice, through body shots.

Referee Robert Chalmers gave him a fair chance to regroup but pulled him out after a pasting from Keane.

Two first-round stoppages came before BoxNation cameras went live, with Cannock's Dave Egan and Birmingham super-middleweight Andrew Robinson making a statement.

'Handsome Dave,' a former amateur at Walsall Wood ABC, fought Ricky Stock at light-welterweight and brought his guard down with hooks on the gloves, the precursor to a knockout right that laid out his foe.

Leamington Spa's John Mason had no answer to Robinson's hooks to the body and went down three times, the last three seconds before the end of the session.

As the BoxNation broadcast went live, Stafford's Grant Cunningham stepped up to six rounds and beat Mitch Mitchell.

Cunningham put him down with a right hook to the body in the fourth round, but 'Mad' Mitchell survived to the end.



Just champion – Martin Gethin celebrates winning the British lightweight title as beaten rival Ben Murphy applauds

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